FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 056 24 March 1986

ARGENTINA

Ubaldini Denies Secret Meeting With Alfonsin B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 23 Mar]
Strike Positions Reaffirmed B 1
[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 22 Mar]
British MP's To Visit Falkland Islands B 3
Military-Civilian Delegation Leaves for Peru B 3

BOLIVIA

President Paz on Possible Cogovernment With ADN C 1
Huanuni Miners Take 2 Comibol Officials Hostage C 1
Briefs: Results of Antidrug Operations; C 1
Special Police Force Dismantled

BRAZIL

Abreu Sodre Says Reagan's Remarks 'Groundless' D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 20 Mar]
Seeks Corroboration D 1
Nobistor Weapons Container Seals Found Broken D 1
Renewal of Maritime Agreement With U.S. Unlikely D 2
Sarney Denies Price Freeze To Be Lifted D 2
Funaro Agrees D 2

CHILE

Del Valle Discusses U.S. Congress' Aid Vote E 1
Foreign Ministry Receives U.S. Embassy Documents E 1
Air Force To Update Mirage-50 Aircraft E 1
[EL MERCURIO 14 Mar]
Pinochet Expects Relations With Peru To Improve E 2
Drive for Democracy in Santiago Turns Violent E 2
171 Arrested, 4 Wounded E 3
National Accord Signatories Meet, Pledge Support E 4
Government Extends Curfew 90 More Days E 4

ECUADOR

Quevedo Clarifies Febres Comments on Nicaragua G 1
National Congress President Leaves for U.S. G 1
Vargas Gets Check-up; Lawyer Interviewed G 1
Incommunicado Status Lifted G 2

PARAGUAY

Mass, March Mark Anniversary of ABC's Closure H 1
Interior Minister Minimizes Americas Watch Visit H 1
[HOY 21 Mar]
PLRA Calls for Mobilization To Oust Stroessner H 2
Mopoco Denounces Stroessner to OAS Rights Panel H 3
Briefs: British Trade Delegation H 3

PERU

Garcia Comments on Contra Aid, Cuban Ties J 1
Soviets Reported Fishing in Territorial Waters J 2
Purchase of Mirage 2000's Confirmed J 2
Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Interviewed J 2
Garcia's Panama Visit To Refute Columnist J 4
Briefs: Human Rights Group Member J 4

URUGUAY

Iglesias Criticizes Arms Supply to Contras K 1
Command of Armed Forces To Pass to Presidency K 1
Blanco Party Leader Meets Sanguinetti K 2
Briefs: New Ambassadors Accredited; K 2
Fiscal Deficit Statistics

VENEZUELA

Guatemala's Cerezo Arrives on 3-Day Visit L 1
Opposes U.S. Intervention L 1

PANAMA

Government Explains Rejection of Marcos Asylum N 1
Text of Communique N 1
TV Commentary on Reagan 'Defeat' on Contra Aid N 2
Delvalle, Costa Rica's Monge, Arias Reaffirm Ties N 2
Noriega Views Strike; Arias, Delvalle on Meeting N 3
Conato Coordinator Says Strike 'Positive' N 5
[LA PRENSA 21 Mar]

CENTRAL AMERICA

Regional Presidents Sign Joint Declaration P 1
[EL HERALDO 17 Mar]

COSTA RICA

Agreement With Nicaragua on Border Commission P 1
[LA REPUBLICA 13 Mar]

EL SALVADOR

Vice President on Arms Trafficking Issue P 3
Viera on Captured Rebels, Holy Week Truce P 4
[EL MUNDO 18 Mar]
Business Groups Form New Productive Union P 4
[EL DIARIO DE HOY 20 Mar]
Venceremos Comments on Contra Aid Defeat P 5

GUATEMALA

Cerezo Says Nicaragua Should Begin Contra Dialogue P 6

HONDURAS

Azcona Discusses Border Tension With Ortega P 7
Combat Units on 'Red Alert' P 8
Foreign Secretary on Use of Territory, Contra Aid P 8
Further Comments [EL HERALDO 19 Mar] P 9
U.S. Planes Reportedly Damage Airport Runways P 10
Commercial Trucks Backed Up at Nicaraguan Border P 11

NICARAGUA

Ortega Responds to Reagan Reaction on Aid Vote P 11
Warns of Reagan Plans P 12
Ortega Wants Talks With Reagan as Contra Chief [REUTER] P 13
Editorial Views U.S. House Contra Vote P 14
[BARRICADA 20 Mar]
Additional Editorial [BARRICADA 21 Mar] P 15
Honduran Army Units Reportedly on Alert P 16
Carrion Leads Delegation to KSC Congress P 16
[BARRICADA 23 Mar]
Guerrillas Reportedly Set Up Bases Near Border P 17
ARDE, Other Groups Join To Launch Offensive P 17
[San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE 13 Mar]

CUBA

Reaction to U.S. House Vote on Contra Aid Q 1
'Setback' for Reagan Q 1
Tunnerman Comments Q 1
GRANMA Analysis Q 2
Ortega: Vote Does Not End War Q 3
Attempt To 'Vietnamize' Area Q 3
Reagan To 'Pressure' Senate Q 3
U.S. Congressmen's Visit to Nicaragua Reported Q 4
Ramirez on Meeting Delegation Q 4
Contadora Group at OAS Urges Stop to Contra Aid Q 5
H. Ortega Interview With Mexican Paper Noted Q 5
U.S. Plan To Move Miskitos to Nicaragua Alleged Q 5
Spokesman on Caraballeda Document, U.S. Ties [AFP] Q 6
Spain Refuses Extradition Request for Sanchez Q 6
[Bonaire]

CARIBBEAN

HAITI

Armed Forces Reorganize Government Council S 1
Gourgue Explains Reasons for Resignation S 1
Former President Fignole Returns From Exile S 2
Students, Bus Drivers Protest Deaths of 5 People S 2

UBALDINI DENIES SECRET MEETING WITH ALFONSIN

PY232201 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 23 Mar 86 p 13

[Text] (NA-DYN) -- General Confederation of Labour (CGT) secretary-general Saul Ubaldini strongly denied yesterday that he and President Raul Alfonsin were planning a secret meeting to try to head off next Tuesday's general strike. He spoke to the press after a meeting of the CGT executive council in which further plans were laid down for the 10-hour national stoppage. "I would never meet with the president behind closed doors," said Ubaldini, also denying that the CGT had been in contact with government officials in a last-ditch effort to prevent the strike.

He said the strike would be lifted if the government met CGT demands but said that after Friday's speech by Economic Coordination Secretary Adolfo Canitrot, "we have very few hopes." Canitrot said in his speech that the government will gradually lift price controls and will be present in all wage negotiations to make sure businessmen are not too generous in conceding increases. The general strike -- the fifth during this government -- will last from noon to 10 pm on Tuesday and will be accompanied by a demonstration at the intersection of 9 de Julio and Independencia avenues.

In Cordoba, meanwhile, busdrivers continued the 28-hour strike they began unexpectedly at 8 pm Friday night in demand of better salaries. Short-, medium-, and long-distance service was paralyzed throughout the province, though buses from outside the province arrived and departed normally. The local bus-owners' association said it would punish striking drivers because the period of binding arbitration ordered by provincial labor minister Jorge Sappia said he could offer only a five percent salary increase, retroactive to January, against the 30 percent increase demanded by drivers. In Buenos Aires, Jose Piva, president of the busowners' federation (FATAP), resigned reportedly over disagreements with FATAP officials who want to take a harder line with the government in demands for fare increases.

In other labour news, the CGT issued a statement criticizing what it called the economy ministry's meddling in labour issues. The government "has suspended labour legality and substituted it with mathematical calculations, drawn up by economic officials," said the CGT, adding that those officials "have a sum of power undreamt of even in the times of absolutism and slavery."

Deputy and tobacco workers leader Roberto Digon (Peronist-City) criticized the 62 Organizations for its secret negotiations with the government, saying "the union leaders who tell the public about internal differences in the workers' movement are the same ones who negotiate (with the government) behind the backs of the workers." Radio announcers and operators will stage a 24-hour strike as of noon today to demand salary increases. Their union said one announcer will stay at stations in case of emergency messages.

Strike Positions Reaffirmed

PY222200 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 22 Mar 86 p 11

[Text] [NA-DYN] -- The war of words between the CGT and the government intensified yesterday, five days before the CGT's planned ten-hour general strike and two days after the unions rejected the government's latest offer to head off the strike. Adolfo Canitrot, economic co-ordination secretary, insisted the government "will hold firm to its programme, even though the CGT keeps calling strikes." He said officialdom "guarantees social peace much more by maintaining its line than by giving in" to CGT pressures."

Lower House speaker Juan Carlos Pugliese called Tuesday's planned strike a "deformation of democracy," adding that the CGT "wants to make us look like we broke election promises but we aren't the country's laggards." "These attitudes (from the CGT) don't make the pie any bigger. The ideal thing would be to sit down at a table and seek solutions," said Pugliese.

The CGT issued a strongly-worded statement saying the Radical party "has become a pressure group against organized labour" and urged workers to reject any "government pressure" not to strike. Referring to reports that the Radicals will mount a media campaign against the strike, the CGT called on workers to "ignore provocations in the communications media or by direct action from civilian groups,"

In an improvised speech before a plenary meeting of the 62 Organizations Peronist union bloc, CGT secretary general Saul Ubaldini said that "this is not a democracy" and that the only difference between current economic policies and those of the dictatorship is that "one economy minister was named (Jose) Martinez de Hoz and the other one's name is (Juan Sourrouille)." At the meeting, the 62 Organizations threw its "fervent support" behind the strike, called for free collective wage bargaining and put off electing a new leadership until April.

Senator Antonio Berhaongaray (Radical-La Pampa) told a Tucuman radio programme that the Peronists "are taking political action through the CGT" and that the government is not looking for a stand-off with the unions "because these are not times to fight each other." Responding to Berhongaray, deputy Roberto Garcial (Peronist-City) said that if Berhongaray "worked like men who earn 100 australs, he'd realize that it's not just a Peronist issue." Presidential chief-of-staff Carlos Becerra said the government is ready to discuss "positions, idea, and (wage) figures" but not during the present "confrontation."

Meanwhile, a labour ministry spokesman flatly denied Thursday night that Minister Hugo Barrionuevo was about to resign, calling the rumours to that effect "disgraceful." The Council of Argentine Industry (CAI) warned on Thursday that confrontation between the CGT and the government could become "irreversible" and called on both sides "to take urgent measures" to get talks moving again.

In other labour news, trains in Greater Buenos Aires will operate at near-normal levels during Tuesday's strike. The railway workers' union said it supported the strike but would keep up service so that people could get to the mass demonstration planned by the CGT at the intersection of 9 de Julio and Independencia avenues. Some 5,000 construction workers marched on the labour and economy ministries, and the Argentine Construction Chamber, and finally CGT headquarters, where they were met by Ubaldini, as part of a series of stoppages and demonstrations by hard-hats around the country. A simultaneous march was held in Parana. Construction workers' union (UOCRA) leader Juan Alejo Farias said in a speech that "if the government does not want to talk with leaders, it will have to do it in the street with workers."

About 1,000 Mercedes-Benz workers demonstrated outside a downtown hotel Thursday night to protest low wages while management dined inside to celebrate the German automobile firm's 100th anniversary. The health workers' union (FATSA) announced a 24-hour general strike for April 7 and another 48-hour strike for April 24-25 to demand salary increases and improved work conditions. Private hospitals will also strike on April 7.

Police in Tucuman reported late Thursday night that two busdrivers were injured and hospitalized when the buses they were driving were attacked by unknown assailants. One driver had bullet wounds and the other was bruised by a slingshot. A study by the Latin American Economic Research Foundation (FIEL) released yesterday said that purchasing power for public company employees has increased 15 percent since the start of the Austral Plan. Central administration employees' purchasing power went down with respect to June 1985, however. In the manufacturing sector, FIEL said that purchasing power increased by up to 15 percent among the least-skilled sectors but stayed roughly even, at higher levels. In nearly all sectors, the increase was due mainly to lower inflation rather than higher wages.

BRITISH MP'S TO VISIT FALKLAND ISLANDS

PY211748 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] It has been reported in London that a British congressional delegation will travel to the Malvinas Islands next week. The delegation will observe what has been done to provide for the defense of the islands, and will inspect the highways and a new airport being built at Mount Pleasant.

MILITARY-CIVILIAN DELEGATION LEAVES FOR PERU

PY210013 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1913 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Mar (TELAM) -- A delegation of retired Argentine military officers and civilians this afternoon left for Peru to hold meetings with Peruvian officers, politicians, and military men to invite them to participate in the second Latin American forum on defense scheduled for Buenos Aires in April.

The delegation includes Latin American Argentine Unity Center (UALA) President Julio Urien; Brigadier General Carlos French, retired; General Jorge Leal, retired; Center of Military Officers for Democracy (Cemida) President Ernesto Lopez Meyer; Colonel Cesar Diaz, retired; Major Oscar Vijande, retired; and Hector Beiroa, the secretary general of the Center of Malvinas War Veterans, among others.

French, Diaz, and Vijande explained to TELAM that the forum intends to create a Latin American armed forces organization that will endorse popular liberation movements with concrete proposals for decolonization and for overcoming [words indistinct] as an alternative to U.S. impositions. They emphasized the need to defend common interests without losing individuality and recalled the three key issues discussed by (Peruvian President) Alan Garcia: the Malvinas, Central America (Grenada and Nicaragua), and the foreign debt.

French, Diaz, and Vijande stated that we should not forget the Malvinas issue because the continent is full of Malvinas issues, like the foriegn debt, famine, culture, and the technology transfer, which is why we are going to express thanks for the solidarity the Peruvian people expressed for us. On the other hand, French, Diaz, Vijande, and former Midshipman Urien said that the current defense bill is just a bill for the Armed Forces. Argentina and Latin America need a realistic defense bill based on what the people need, because the armies are an expression of the people.

PRESIDENT PAZ ON POSSIBLE COGOVERNMENT WITH ADN

PY212255 La Paz Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Victor Paz Estenssoro yesterday said that the validity, contiuation, and provisions of the pact for democracy with the Nationalist Democratic Action [ADN] will be reviewed when General Hugo Banzer Saurez returns to the country. President Paz called this press conference in order to explain to newsmen -- since only managers of the media had participated in the previous day's press conference -- the draft law on taxes which the executive branch has submitted to the Congress.

During the press conference, the newsmen asked the president about certain political aspects of the situation. The president was also asked about what was happening to the pact for democracy. The president answered that it would be analyzed upon Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez' return,. Regarding the possibility of a cogovernment, the president said that in politics anything can happen. Therefore he did not dismiss the possibility that the political and economic crisis might be solved later on through a cogovernment with the ADN, although his answer was not very specific. On the other hand, referring to the national economic situation, the president said that when he took office on 6 August 1985 the country had really been in crisis, and the situation had been totally different and worrisome.

HUANUNI MINERS TAKE 2 COMIBOL OFFICIALS HOSTAGE

PY221925 Paris AFP in Spanish 1420 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] La Paz, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Union leaders reported here today that engineer Carlos Melgarejo and economist Carlos Elias, of the Bolivian Mining Corporation (Comibol), were captured inside a mine in Huanuni district (250 km southwest of La Paz) and are being held hostage there. The sources added that these people will not be released until Comibol agrees to replenish food stores and raise the miners' wages.

It has been reported that in the next few hous the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro will send a high level delegation to Huanuni to obtain the release of the two hostages.

BRIEFS

RESULTS OF ANTIDRUG OPERATORS -- Santa Cruz -- Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Cassazola, who until today was acting director of the Santa Cruz Department for the Control of Dangerous Substances, has said that during operations carried out in this department over the past 3 months a total of 437,470 grams of cocaine was seized. According to Cassazola's report, a total of 44 persons are involved. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Mar 86 p 8 PY]

SPECIAL POLICE FORCE DISMANTLED -- Cochabamba Colonel Jaime Barrera, new director of the Department for the Control of Dangerous Substances, disclosed that the Specialized Rural Police Force [Policia Rural Especializada -- PRE] has been dismantled in order to put the troops under a single command. [Summary] [La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 7 Mar 86 p 9 PY]

ABREU SODRE SAYS REAGAN'S REMARKS 'GROUNDLESS'

PY211415 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Mar 86 p 6

[Text] Punta Arenas -- Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre termed "groundless" the charges made by Ronald Reagan that Nicaragua is encouraging guerrilla activities in Brazil. During a stopover at the Chilean city Punta Arenas the day before yesterday, on his way to the Antarctic, Sodre said that it "was a misinterpretation." The foreign minister said that "President Reagan's remarks are groundless" and added that the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia has already explained that the charges are unfounded.

Yesterday in Brasilia four deputies protested in the Chamber of Deputies about "Reagan's interference in Brazilian domestic issues" while Deputy Cunha Bueno (Social Democratic Party representative for Sao Paulo) said that he did not believe Reagan was acting in bad faith or that he was misinformed. For this reason, he requested that the foreign minister and chief of the National Intelligence Center, SNI, be summoned to explain before the Chamber of Deputies about "the training and movement of guerrilla elements in national territory sponsored by foreign countries."

The deputy also proposed that the Justice Minister be asked for information regarding the amount of Costa Rican, Honduran, Panamanian, and Nicaraguan citizens who have visited Brazil during the past 2 years. Other deputies that referred to this issue were Marcio Santilli (Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party representative for Sao Paulo), who noted the "shock" of the Brazilian people at the charges by Reagan, who said that Brazilian guerrillas are allegedly being trained in Nicaragua; Jose Genoino (Workers Party representative for Sao Paulo), who is a former Araguaia guerrilla himself, who repudiated Regan's statements and urged the U.S. House of Representatives to turn down his request to finance the Nicaraguan "contras"; and Cristina Tavares (PMDB representative for Pernabuco) and Joao Marques (PMDB representative for Porto Alegre), who voiced their solidarity with the Nicaraguan people and criticized President Reagan.

Seeks Corroboration

PY211658 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] President Ronald Reagan's charges continue to be the topic of the day here in Brazil. Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre has stated that if the U.S. President does not corroborate his statements, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry will issue a note of surprise which, in the diplomatic language, is used only for serious and unacceptable developments. When asking the U.S. Congress for financial aid for Nicaraguan rebels linked to the (?late) dictator Anastasio Somoza, Reagan alluded to the existence of guerrilla training camps in Brazil [as heard].

NOBISTOR WEAPONS CONTAINER SEALS FOUND BROKEN

PY211537 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] The Federal Police force continues to investigate the case of the vessel seized in Rio de Janeiro with its cargo of 6 tons of weapons. The Argentine and U.S. crewmen are being advised by lawyers hired by their respective consulates.

Yesterday morning, Osvaldo Galleiros, superintendent of the Federal Police force in Rio de Janeiro, made contact with Panamanian Consul Joaquin Franco. The consul wanted details about the Panamanian-flag vessel's logbook. Later, Galleros received the Argentine counsel to Rio de Janeiro, (Jose Dagos), Naval Attache Ismael Garcia, and the head of the Argentine Customs Police, Roberto Pitaluga. These three authorities delivered some documents to Galleiros, the contents of which will be disclosed today, 21 March. The equipment and weapons continue to be guarded by the 1st Army Corp while an official decision is being made. The Federal Police are investigating the violation of the seals of the containers where the weapons were stored. The seals were already broken when the vessel was seized. Consequently, it is likely that some of the weapons were sent to another destination or were sold by one of the crewmen here in Rio de Janeiro.

RENEWAL OF MARITIME AGREEMENT WITH U.S. UNLIKELY

PY211415 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0542 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 21 Mar (EFE) -- It is improbable that Brazil would be willing to extend the maritime agreement signed in 1974 with the U.S. Government, which expires in December of this year after several conflictive renewals. According to Brazilian maritime sources, "after heated meetings in Rio and New York," there is growing concern over "the profound difference of opinions" and the upcoming expiration of the agreement, which has in the past been renewed for short periods.

The U.S. Government defends "freedom of traffic" without protection for the shipowners, and it opposes the system of "prescribed cargo," by which coffee, cocoa, and some manufactured products can only be transported by members of the cargo "pool" (Lloyd, Netumar, Nacional, and United States Lines).

Oswaldo Rutter, an official of the National Superintendency of the Merchant Marine (Sunama) said that "Brazil advocates a policy of reserved cargo because it does not have the capital to compete with the super companies of the large countries." Rutter added that "we want a fair freight system but with cargo guarantees for our shipowners, a position that is also defended by other Latin American countries."

SARNEY DENIES PRICE FREEZE TO BE LIFTED

PY210034 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] President Jose Sarney said today that the price freeze will not be suspended in 90 days, according to an announcement by Government House spokesman Fernando Cesar Mesquita.

[Begin recording] All the speculation about the possibility that the price freeze will be lifted in 3 months has been refuted by the President Sarney, who categorically affirmed that there are no possibilities of suspending the price feeze. [end recording]

Funaro Agrees

PY211643 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes in Portuguese 1600 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Planning Minister Dilson Funaro has agreed with President Sarney's statement over the price freeze and said that his comments had been misinterpreted by a newspaper. Funaro said that the government will continue to closely watch prices even when the economy becomes stable. The price policy will be inflexible. It is here to stay.

DEL VALLE DISCUSSES U.S. CONGRESS' AID VOTE

PY220150 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle today reiterated his charges that groups that have infiltrated Chile have joined up with local groups to promote terrorism in the country. He thus confirmed statements that were made by President Reagan on this same topic. Jose Francisco Contreras has a report for us on this matter. Jose Francisco, please tell us what you know. Did the foreign minister say anything about the U.S. Congress' negative vote on the request for economic aid for the anti-Sandinists that was asked for by President Reagan? Jose Francisco, good evening.

[Contreras] Good evening. The minister declined to comment on this topic. The foreign minister said that the Foreign Ministry will not give an opinion, but that he personally believes that it is a topic that is typically an internal affair of the United States. He said that if President Reagan sends a draft bill to Congress and Congress says no or yes, then it is an internal problem. The minister recalled that Chile fully supports the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries. President Reagan's charges regarding an eventual terrorist plan that is affecting several Latin American countries were mentioned to Del Valle, and the minister answered:

[Begin recording] We have very good information about the charge that has been made by President Reagan, because we are one of the victims of the terrorist plans and we know that it is not only Chileans that are operating in Chile, because we are being infiltrated from other countries and this is something I have said repeatedly [words indistinct]. [end recording]

[Contreras] Finally, the minister stated that this has been reported by Chile to various international organizations and friendly countries. The minister stated that we believe that they must adopt measures, but the decisions that they make and the results are their internal problem and we cannot meddle, he concluded.

Good evening.

FOREIGN MINISTRY RECEIVES U.S. EMBASSY DOCUMENTS

PY221324 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] The U.S. Embassy has reported that Ambassador Harry Barnes will travel to the Antarctic region to obtain first-hand knowledge of the area. The embassy pointed out that Ambassador Barnes is aware that his country and Chile have great interest in carrying out scientific research in the area. Meanwhile, an embassy spokesman has refused to comment on an envelope with documents handed over to Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle. The spokesman said: We cannot make any comment because the exchange of documents at the diplomatic level is confidential. For their part, foreign ministry sources have said that the documents have some clarifications on the talks that Del Valle and Ambassador Harry Barnes have held over the past few days.

AIR FORCE TO UPDATE MIRAGE-50 AIRCRAFT

PY202230 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p C2

[Text] Chile will adapt the latest technological developments to its French-made Mirage-50 aircraft. This is established in an agreement signed yesterday between the Chilean Air Force [FACh] and the National Aeronautics Enterprise (ENAER). According to the ENAER executive manager, General Caupolican Boisset Mujica, "this is the most important agreement my enterprise has reached on the modernization of aircraft in the past 2 years."

The agreement was signed yesterday at the grounds of FIDA-86 [International Aeronautics Fair]. The ceremony was presided over by FACh chief of staff General Carlos Desgroux Camus. It was attended by most of the FACh generals, and FIDA representatives and exhibitors were also present. The agreement was signed by General Pablo Saldias Maripangue, commander of the Air Force Logistics Support Department, and by ENAER executive manager General Caupolican Boisset Mujica. The Mirage-50 is the most modern aircraft in the FACh inventory. ANAER has already fitted "Canard" wings on Mirage-50 aircraft, improving the Mirage-50's performance.

Gen Desgroux told EL MERCURIO that the ENAER achievements in the modernization of the Mirage-50's "reflect the maturity achieved by the aeronautics industry of Chile." He said that it is the result of the great efforts made to obtain and incorporate foreign technology, which have yielded positive results in a very short time. He also explained that the use of local manpower and the development by ENAER of all the phases of training and national technologies is very important. Regarding the costs, Chile will cut them by 50 to 60 percent compared to what it would cost on the international market.

Desgroux noted the importance of the effect this activity has on other similar fields, such as aerodynamics, hydraulics, etc. He stated that the addition of "Canard" wings will improve the aircraft's performance, especially at high altitudes while operating at lower speeds, which will help the pilot carry out maneuvers difficult to perform with a conventional aircraft. Another important factor is the reduction of the aircraft's taxiing distance and the wearing out of brakes and tires.

Accompanied by his aide, Squadron Commander Vicente Von Teuber, Gen Desgroux disclosed that "probably, in the future, this service could be granted to other air forces of the continent that have the same material, which ENAER can handle perfectly." General Pablo Saldias, head of the Logistics Department, revealed that one of the Air Force's objectives is to optimize its means of operation, which is precisely what this agreement seeks.

PINOCHET EXPECTS RELATIONS WITH PERU TO IMPROVE

PY202320 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] President Pinochet today said that the coming talks with Peru will improve the understanding between the countries. He made this statement when he received the credentials of the new Peruvian ambassador to Chile, Luis Marchand Stens, during a ceremony held in the O'Higgins Hall of Government House.

DRIVE FOR DEMOCRACY IN SANTIAGO TURNS VIOLENT

PY202157 Paris AFP in Spanish 2101 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Santiago, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Chilean labor leader Rodolfo Seguel and dozens of other demonstrators were arrested in Santiago today while participating in a drive for democracy supported by many organizations that oppose General Augusto Pinochet's regime.

In various neighborhoods of the Chilean capital and at union headquarters, universities, hospitals, and other public places, the organizers of the drive installed ballot boxes and invited citizens to vote either for democracy or dictatorship.

It will fall...it will fall, obviously meaning the dictatorship's fate was constantly chanted by demonstrators around the ballot boxes while they distributed printed ballots to passersby. Democracy now was yet another slogan of the demonstrators throughout the drive, which turned violent when the Carabineros moved in to break up antigovernment marches with watercannons and tear gas.

Rodolfo Seguel, president of the National Workers Command [CNT], was arrested during one of these incidents when the Carabineros broke up a street rally that hundreds of professionals and workers were holding in downtown Santiago.

Fanny Pollarolo, one of the leaders of the left-wing Democratic Popular Movement (MDP); Jorge Pavez, president of the Trade Union Association of Chilean Teachers (AGEh); leaders of the Catholic University Student Federation; and members of several labor unions also were arrested during the demonstrations, according to eyewitnesses.

The main incidents took place at the National Library, on the Paseo Ahumada Avenue, on Huerfanos Street, and on Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue near the La Moneda Presidential Palace. It was hard to breath in downtown Santiago because of the tear gas. In addition, traffic was disrupted, and many stores closed their doors early this afternoon.

The situation also was tense at the Engineering School of the Chilean National University and at the Teachers Academy, where students were holding rallies while police personnel were being deployed around the building.

The workers neighborhoods around Santiago are calm, and the ballot boxes in neighborhood community centers and Catholic parish houses remain open.

171 Arrested, 4 Wounded

PY212137 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] The violent actions organized, instigated, and implemented by extremist opposition political sectors resulted in 4 people wounded, 9 Carabinero officials injured, and 171 detainees. Concerning the arrests, the police have said that officially 142 people were arrested in Santiago and 29 people were arrested in the provinces.

The official account also states that a Carabinero officer and eight Carabineros are among the police officials attacked by subversives. Chilena Rubillo Rojas, 23, presented herself to a state medical service office at 2125 and was the first injury reported. Rubillo Rojas stated that she was walking south on General Velasquez Avenue and that when she reached Iquique Street was hit by a bullet fired by unidentified individuals from a passing car. She was hit in her right forearm. Edgardo Pinilla Avendano, a 16-year-old, arrived at the Central Hospital 5 minutes later. Pinilla Avendano, who lives in Lo Prado District, reported that he was wounded during demonstrations held at the intersection of General Velasquez Avenue and Los Veteranos del 79 street. A third victim was identified as Jose Mario Correa Bahamonde, 22, who was hit by a bullet at the intersection of Vicuna Mackenna Avenue and Camino Agricola street.

In conclusion, Elena Contreras Safmeir was hit by a bullet in her right leg at the intersection of San Francisco and Copiapo Streets.

NATIONAL ACCORD SIGNATORIES MEET, PLEDGE SUPPORT

PY202124 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpts] All the signatories of the National Accord for the Transition to Full Democracy held a meeting this morning to reassert their full support of the original accord. In addition, they agreed to work for the restoration of democracy as soon as possible by using peaceful methods of struggle.

The only exception was the National Unity Movement, MUN, which insisted upon its previously reported stand: The MUN rejects social mobilization and approves of Pinochet staying in power until 1989. This position is not shared by any of the other political forces.

Democratic Alliance [AD] President Armando Jaramillo emphasized that efforts will be made to strengthen the National Accord by focusing on concrete tasks.

National Party [PN] leader Pedro Correa stated that his party reasserted its full support of the National Accord and that the PN will work to achieve a dialogue between the civilians and the military. Correa emphasized that the PN does not endorse -- although the PN respects it -- the strategy of social mobilization.

At the conclusion of the meeting, National Accord coodinator Sergio Molina spoke to journalists.

[Begin recording] It was a good meeting because it was very frank. All the participants expressed their opinion on the current situation. All of them, without exception, consider the National Accord a substantive political event which, although it has not yielded any results because the government has refused to hold any type of negotiations or talks, is fully valid. [end recording]

Sergio Molina emphasized, however, that in the past few weeks important changes have been taking place within governmental circles. He stated that this is encouraging our hopes that a dialogue between the civilians and the military will soon be possible. Molina described as positive the fact that within the government there are an increasing number of officials who are willing to make changes in the 1980 Constitution.

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS CURFEW 90 MORE DAYS

PY201513 Paris AFP in Spanish 1356 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Santiago, 20 Mar (AFP) -- The Santiago Military Command today approved the extension for a further 90 days of the night curfew, and the restriction on the right to assembly, continuing the powers to repress people who commit vandalism, looting, sabotage and terrorism.

QUEVEDO CLARIFIES FEBRES COMMENTS ON NICARAGUA

PA212138 Paris AFP in Spanish 2248 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Quito, 20 Mar (AFP) -- Today Patricio Quevedo, the national secretary of public information of Ecuador, evaluated President Leon Febres' recent declarations on Nicaragua which, according to Quevedo, have been misinterpreted. In a communique, Guevedo explained that Febres Cordero never claimed "to be a supporter of U.S. aid to the anti-Sandinists in Nicaragua," as several media have reported. Quevedo, who acts as a government spokesman, repeated verbatim the words used by President Febres.

"My point of view regarding Nicaragua is very clear. Everybody intervenes in Nicaragua. Let us not blindfold ourselves. All combinations of political colors intervene in Nicaragua's internal life: Blues, reds, and pinks." Immediately afterward, President Febres said: "There is a group of Nicaraguans who are stuggling for freedom. If they succeed in getting support, the only thing that will occur is that forces will then be more balanced, since the Nicaraguan regime also has foreign support. The large supply of weapons that the regime uses does not exactly come from heaven."

NATIONAL CONGRESS PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR U.S.

PA231835 Paris AFP in Spanish 1745 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Guayaquil, Ecuador, 23 Mar (AFP) -- The president of the National Congress of Ecuador, Averroes Bucaram, left this morning for the United States on a 5-day visit at the official invitation of the U.S. government. Bucaram was seen off this morning by several deputies and members of the Concentration of Popular Forces (CIF) of which he is the leader. During his stay in the United States he will visit Washington and New York. Among his most important activities are a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, and a visit to the U.S. Congress. Bucaram is accompanied by the chairman of the International Affairs Commission of Congress, Deputy Leonardo Escobar; his aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Colonel Mario Bonilla; and advisers Polibio Cordova and Javier Barcos.

VARGAS GETS CHECK-UP; LAWYER INTERVIEWED

PA212327 Quito RadioQuito in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] It has unofficially been reported that Lieutenant General Frank Vargas Pazzos was treated early today at the Armed Forces' general hospital, where several checkups were made to determine the state of his health and consider the possibility of his being admitted for closer observation. In addition, Vargas Pazzos' counsel for the defense, Dr Jose Guerrero, has said that his defense will be based on showing that, in the problems that occurred both in Manta and Quito and in which Vargas participated, no political plot was involved but that it was a purely military conflict.

[Begin recording] [Guerrero] I visited the Vencedores barracks this morning [words indistinct]. I was received by Colonel De la Torre, who introduced me to Gen Vargas, who awaited my visit as his lawyer. I was accompanied by Dr Hugo Calero. Vargas currently suffers health problems because he has had several accidents through his military life. Some of the consequences of these accidents must be controlled almost daily.

He must have a medical checkup based on his complete medical history. [Words indistinct]. During our conversation, he confirmed his statements. [Words indistinct]. He said that he never tried to destablize the government or to defy the Armed Forces or democracy. His only intention was to protest the undisciplined actions against the FAE [Ecuadoran Armed Forces], and the (?outrage) of its highest-ranking representative, Gen Vargas. He also said that there had been no political plot against democracy, but a demand for discipline.

[Question] The president of the Republic, however, said during a radio and television address that one of the general's crimes had been to plot against democracy.

[Guerrero] During this radio and television address, the president made statements that were far from true. Gen Vargas never plotted a conspiracy. He never conspired. All of his actions were essentially military.

[Question] [Words indistinct] Is this the truth? Are the documents that the president presented legal?

[Guerrero] The documents presented on television must be real. We cannot doubt the words of the country's first citizen. All that can be construed from all these documents, however, is that Gen Vargas did his legal part in the purchase of an aircraft. There is absolutely nothing that indicates a conspiracy. There is arguments presented by President Leon Febres Cordero [words indistinct] because it shows that Gen Vargas has always been faithful to his duty.

[Question] Some time ago, the former defense minister's legal adviser [words indistinct] conversation in which Gen Vargas was charged with permitting a sort of commission for a specific amount on behalf of the FAE.

[Guerrero] I do not remember this because I still had not assumed the general's defense. I only heard about it. I have no details on this. The truth, however, will surely be known. We lawyers feel that the best way to get justice is to establish truth. This is why I have assumed Gen Vargas' defense. I believe he is a fair man. We will establish truth and show that he is innocent of the charges. [end recording]

Incommunicado Status Lifted

PA232301 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Colonel Gonzalo Fernandez, retired, president of the Military Court of Justice, has decided to lift the incommunicado status of Lieutenant General Frank Vargas Pazzos. Orders in this regard have been issued to the commander of the Vencedores Battalion Garrison where General Vargas Pazzos is being held.

MASS, MARCH MARK ANNIVERSARY OF ABC'S CLOSURE

PY221850 Paris AFP in Spanish 1626 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Asuncion, 22 Mar (AFP) -- Several hundred demonstrators have demanded that the newspaper ABC COLOR, which was closed by the Paraguayan Government, be reopened. In a march today through downtown Asuncion, the demonstrators also demanded democracy and the end of Genral Alfredo Stroessner's dictatorship. The demonstration started spontaneously after a thanksgiving mass at the cathedral by Archbishop Msgr Ismael Rolon. After the mass, nearly 400 people marched from the church to the ABC COLOR building.

In his homily, Msgr Rolon prayed for those who are hurting the people and urged them to change their attitude, in a clear allusion to Paraguayan Government officials charged with curtailing public liberties. Asserting that the truth will make us free, Msgr Rolon asked all his parishioners to become aware of this situation and to make every effort to promote the truth.

After the mass, journalist Alcibiades Delvalle and Jose Gasper Meaurio, secretary general of the Paraguayan Association of journalists, addressed a group of people gathered outside the church. They once again demanded that ABC COLOR, which was closed 2 years ago by the government on charges of inciting subversion and hatred, be reopened. Meaurio called upon union, student, and peasant organizations as well as on all democratic institutions to make a joint effort to fully enforce the right to work, freedom of organization and expression, and freedom of information.

Later, university students demanded a popular mobilization to overthrow the dictatorship. Carmen de Lara Castro, chairwoman of the Paraguayan Human Rights Commission, asked that no more masses be said for ABC COLOR because it looked more like celebrating its death rather than demanding its reopening. Miguel Abdon Saguier, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), who was recently detained and harshly beaten by policemen at a PLRA meeting, urged the crowd to march with him to the ABC COLOR building. The enthusiastic crowd started the march shouting antigovernment slogans while uniformed policemen looked on.

Pedestrians, store attendants, and street peddlers cheered the marchers on Palma Street. A march like this has been unheard of in Asuncion for several decades. Car drivers blew their horns and many people spontaneously joined the march. The most frequently chanted slogans were: The military dictatorship will end; a united people will never be defeated; freedom and democracy; ABC yes, dictatorship no.

INTERIOR MINISTER MINIMIZES AMERICAS WATCH VISIT

PY211832 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 8

[Text] Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro yesterday minimized the significance of an Americas Watch human rights report on Paraguay because of the way of thinking of Americas Watch members. He said: "We gave them the appropriate answer on each case, and we have reaffirmed that we must have a strong government to defend democracy." These were the first remarks by Montanaro on the activities the Americas Watch delegation has been carrying out in our country since 18 March. Montanaro's remarks reflect the unwavering Paraguayan Government position that we ourselves should solve our problems.

Commenting on the questions raised by Patricia Derian, Patricia Pitman, and Scott Greathead in their talks with government officials, Montanaro said: "They usually focus their attention on anticommunist fighters, which we believe ourselves to be."

"They claim there have been human rights violations here. They have expressed concern over the newspaper ABC COLOR and the state of siege. To these questions, we have responded accordingly by asserting that we will continue to firmly defend democracy, aware that we must have a strong government to defend democracy. It is not possible to defend democracy with a weak government," Montanaro said. Montanaro said that the topics he discussed with the Americas Watch delegation were "subjects that were also discussed by the foreign minister, the defense minister, the justice minister, and the president himself." Thus, he said, they did not just ask "many questions" as some members of this delegation told the press.

Asked whether the activities of this foreign delegation could be regarded as interference, Montanaro categorically said: "No." He added: "They came here to collect information as members of a U.S. private organization. We do not have anything to conceal regarding our way of life, our political and institutional life, or regarding our government." The Americas Watch delegation came on this visit to check on specific reports released by relatives of some Paraguayan politicians. Montanaro said that among them are relatives of [Authentic Radical Liberal Party leader] Domingo Laino and of [Christian Democratic Party leader] Luis Alfonso Resck. Montanaro said: "We conveyed to them our viewpoints on each of these cases."

Montanaro said he was not surprised by the visit of the Americas Watch delegation. He said: "We regard it as a position that anyone can take." Then, he vehemently added: "Let them come to see how we are promoting development, and how political activities are being carried out in the country. They could also verify the extent to which freedom of the press is respected here. I would like to ask if any of you, journalists, were harassed or subjected to censorship in your work.

Montanaro did not express concern about the activities of the two Patricias and of Mr Scott Greathead. He said: "They represent a private institution. Their report will probably be based on what legal and illegal parties may tell them. I am not concerned about it because I assume what they are going to say. We know how they think and that they are not concerned about human rights violations in Nicaragua, Cuba, or in any other communist country. They just focus their attention on anticommunist fighters, which we believe ourselves to be."

PLRA CALLS FOR MOBILIZATION TO OUST STROESSNER

PY222011 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0146 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Asuncion, 21 Mar (EFE) -- Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA) Secretary General Miguel Abdon Saguier today called for a "popular mobilization" to "remove" General Alfredo Stroessner "from power and from the country." This call was the answer that Abdon Saguier and his followers gave to the violent police repression, which occurred during a PLRA rally on 16 March, and marked the first act of resistance by demonstrators from the opposition in the 32 years of the Stroessner administration.

The Paraguayan opposition has regarded the PLRA resistance as "a historical fact and a possible starting point of a popular mobilization with a broader scope than the demonstrations that have been thus far staged." The call for a "popular mobilization" coincided with the opposition's announcement that the Stroessner government has agreed to let all parties within the National Accord stage public acts without prior official authorization, which has up until now been the standard procedure.

In a conversation with opposition leader Fernando Vera, president of the Febrerista Revolutionary Party (PFR), a social democratic party, Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro guaranteed the right of assembly of the opposition. The PRF is one of the four parties that belong to the National Accord.

During a press conference, Saguier said that (on 16 March) "the Liberal people forced the regime to recognize an essential right that the regime had usurped and denied for 30 years." He added that the objective of the mobilization is to "remove" General Stroessner "from power and from the country," to designate a transitional civilian government, and to hold free presidential elections in 1987. Saguier expressed the hope that the two Liberal factions which are participating in the government, as well as the other National Accord parties -- the Social Democrats, the Christian Democratic Party, and the Colorado Popular Movement, which is a faction of the ruling party -- will answer his call to a "popular mobilization for democratic change."

MOPOCO DENOUNCES STROESSNER TO OAS RIGHTS PANEL

PY211306 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0212 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Mar (EFE) -- A Paraguayan opposition group today charged at the OAS that the Paraguayan Government of President Alfredo Stroessner is one of the "most inhuman regimes that still survives, to the shame of Latin America." The accusation was presented in Montevideo by the Colorado Popular Movement (Mopoco) to the president of the OAS Human Rights Commission, Bolivian Adolfo Siles Salinas, who is visiting Uruguay. According to the Mopoco, the charges are based on "Stroessner's tyranny, on the terror imposed throughout the country, on the constant violations of human rights, on the implacable persecution of opposition leaders," and also on the fact that "Paraguay has the oldest political prisoner in Latin America: Captain Napoleon Ortigoza, who has been in prison for 24 uninterrupted years, under subhuman conditions."

BRIEFS

BRITISH TRADE DELEGATION -- A delegation of British businessmen arrived in Asuncion yesterday. During their stay in the country the British visitors will meet with local businessmen, members of the Chamber of Commerce, also with Feprinco [Paraguayan Industrial and Commercial Federation], some labor unions and members of the private sector. The delegation's main objective is to find distributors for their products, analyze the opportunities in the local agro-industrial field and the possibility of creating joint enterprises with local firms. [Summary] [Asuncion HOY in Spanish 15 Mar 86 p 11 PY]

GARCIA COMMENTS ON CONTRA AID, CUBAN TIES

PY221352 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Relay from Government House by Jose Tassara]

[Excerpts] Accompanied by Housing and Construction Minister Luis Bedoya Velez and Lima Prefect Jorge del Castillo, President Alan Garcia Perez today made an unexpected visit to La Union Plaza to inspect works under way for the installation of soup kitchen facilities. Later, Garcia answered questions from newsmen on the oil contracts, the U.S. Congress decision to vote down the $100-million aid package requested by President Reagan for the Nicaraguan contras, Garcia's trips to Panama and Uruguay, textbooks, and the shameful incidents that took place at Guadalupe School.

Let us now watch a film clip on President Garcia's activities this morning:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Last weekend you returned from Argentina. What do you think of the results of this trip?

[Garcia] It was very important for our country to the extent that it was instrumental in confirming that the Peruvian position is known and respected. I believe other Latin American peoples essentially support our position. Therefore, our decision to postpone our foreign payments to benefit our country and to safeguard its future -- which is the main thing -- has been supported by other countries and will thus be respected by our creditors.

[Reporter] In Argentina, you stated your position on the Nicaraguan conflict. Now that the U.S. House of Representatives has voted down a $120-million [as heard] aid bill for the Nicaraguan contras proposed by President Reagan, what is your opinion?

[Garcia] I believe it shows that there is no room for arbitrariness or abuses in the U.S. democracy and that when an issue has been thoroughly raised and debated, the representatives of the American people endorse the belief that they should not permit an inappropriate use of the great U.S. power. I welcome the U.S. House of Representatives' decision, because it shows respect for the Latin American peoples and that no one, no matter how mightly he may be, can interfere either economically or militarily with our destinies.

[Reporter] What is the current status of our relations with Cuba?

[Garcia] They are normal. We have always maintained diplomatic relations with Cuba, although for a while we had only attaches or charges d'affaires. A few months ago our ambassador to Havana was accredited, and the Cuban ambassador was also accredited here. Despite what some believe, this does not mean that just because we maintain relations with a country that has a political system like Cuba's, we will adopt the same political system. Democracy in our continent requires pluralism and the acceptance of the various existing political regimes. Our countries should maintain relations with each other.

[Reporter] (?Are there people) afraid of our relations with Cuba, Mr President?

[Garcia] I believe those are unfounded fears and suspicions. In line with our democratic position of fully respecting freedom of expression and opinion, of promoting democratic values and liberties, and of preserving justice and national independence, we are determined to maintain relations with all peoples, without exceptions. [end recording]

SOVIETS REPORTED FISHING IN TERRITORIAL WATERS

PY212303 Paris AFP in Spanish 1548 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Peruvian shipowners today complained in Lima that the Soviet fishing fleet Sovryflot continues fishing within the 30-mile Peruvian territorial waters, despite the fact that an agreement signed between Peru and Sovryflot was rescinded in August 1985. Peruvian shipowners, especially in the port of Chimbote, 412 km north of Lima, have complained to fishing authorities that the Soviet fleet continues fishing behind the authorities' backs, plundering the sea and virtually leaving no biomass for the Peruvian fishermen.

According to a government-to-government agreement, another Soviet fleet besides Sovryflot, including numerous trawlers for high-sea fishing, is fishing outside the 200-mile Peruvian territorial waters. This particular Soviet fleet has permission to dock at Peruvian ports from time to time for repairs and to replenish supplies. On the other hand, it was reported that nearly 20,000 Soviet crew members arrived at the Jorge Chavez International Airport in 1985 to work on the Soviet ships that are fishing within the territorial waters and beyond the 200-mile boundary.

PURCHASE OF 12 MIRAGE 2000'S CONFIRMED

PY230121 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2115 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Lima 22 Mar (EFE) -- Peru will purchase from the French firm Marcel Dassault only 12 Mirage 2000's of the 26 originally contracted, thus saving $570 million. Presidential adviser Hector Delgado Parker, who headed the Peruvian delegation that negotiated the reduction of the initial order of the Mirages, made this announcement today upon returning to Lima. Delgado Parker said that the 12 Mirages are an adequate deterrent and that the first lot of Mirages will arrive next May by ship. He did not say how many. He did not say how much the airplanes cost although Peru has already paid $140 million. Delgado Parker also said that Dassault will not enforce the clauses on fines and damages due to the reduction of the purchase. In conclusion he said that it is practically certain that the French Government will ratify the agreement.

NICARAGUAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED

PY221619 Lima Radioprogramas del Peru in Spanish 1245 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Interview with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera by Denis Vargas Marin in Lima -- live or recorded]

[Text] [Vargas] We will now get in touch with Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Leon Talavera. Good morning, Mr Deputy Foreign Minister.

[Talavera] Good morning, Sir.

[Vargas] Before asking you about the objectives of your visit to Lima, we would like for you, as a Nicaraguan Government official, to comment on the U.S. House of Representatives' decision turning down President Ronald Reagan's request for aid for the Nicaraguan contras.

[Talavera] I'll be glad to. First I would like to tell the Peruvian people about the Nicaraguan Government's opinion on the vote that took place in the U.S. House of Representatives today. The U.S. lawmakers are discussing the manner in which the U.S. executive branch has requested military aid to continue with its war of aggression against Nicaragua. We want to state clearly that the fact that the Congress of a country should vote on the allocation of large sums to be used to attack another country is against the law and against moral principles. In this case, the situation is even more serious, because the U.S. Government maintains diplomatic relations with Nicaragua. We wish that no congress in the world or in this continent would ever arbitrarily discuss budgets for attacking another country. From this viewpoint, we would like to point out that the House's decision does not imply that the U.S. Government will immediately change its policy toward our country, because the matter now goes to the Senate, where Reagan's Republican Party holds a majority. They still have to decide whether the aid to the contras will be reduced or whether it will be raised to $100 million, as Mr Reagan repeatedly said last night.

Therefore, we will be on the lookout for that decision and will continue to ask the U.S. people to pressure their government to end this illegal and immoral war against our neighbor. We will also continue to ask the U.S. Government to respect international law and to accept the negotiated solutions that the Contadora group and its Support Group have put forward over the past few years. We believe this is the best way to solve the Central American crisis and to normalize relations between the United States and Nicaragua. This is what the Nicaraguan people and government want.

[Vargas] Right, Mr Deputy Foreign Minister. The issue will again be voted on 15 April. Political observers say that Reagan has a majority in Congress. Thus, the aid for the contras will probably be granted. What will be your government's position regarding the aid that Nicaragua will surely request from other Latin American nations? Will Nicaragua strengthen its ties to those nations?

[Talavera] Well, our people, who have received the solidarity of Latin America and of other continents, want to reiterate their determination to continue to resist this war which has been imposed on us. Our people categorically reiterate that we will not be subdued with blackmail and aggression, that our government does not consider even the most remote possibility of being defeated, and that we have faith in the future and in our victory over any escalation of aggression from the U.S. Government.

[Vargas] Finally, we would like to know the objective of your visit to Lima.

[Talavera] Well, we came to Peru to fulfill some orders of President Ortega. One of our main tasks is to express our gratitude to the Peruvian people and Government, who recently intensified their political and moral solidarity with our country through their efforts to achieve peace and preserve the right of self-determination.

In particular, we want to thank President Alan Garcia for his recent statements in Argentina. We are convinced that President Garcia speaks not only for the great majority of the Peruvian people but also for the vast majority of Latin Americans, who realize that President Garcia has adopted a position of dignity and firmness that is necessary in the face of heavy-handed imperialism. In the case of Nicaragua, imperialism is attacking not only our people but all the Latin American peoples, who are rightly demanding freedom, dignity, and self-determination.

[Vargas] Mr Deputy Foreign Minister, we thank you for answering our questions.

[Talavera, overlapped by Vargas] ... for having allowed me to convey the Nicaraguan people and government's message to the Peruvian people.

GARCIA'S PANAMA VISIT TO REFUTE COLUMNIST

PY220227 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2232 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Lima, 21 Mar (EFE) -- President Alan Garcia today announced that on 10 April he will go to Uruguay and afterward to Panama to honor an invitation that has been pending for some time. Garcia failed to mention when he will go to Panama but said that he would go there in response to a commentary published in the press by an influential Peruvian columnist who stated that the Panamanian head of state Eric Delvalle has rescinded the invitation.

According to a columnist of the newspaper, EXPRESO, Delvalle used an unexpected visit to the United States for a medical check as an excuse because Garcia's presence in Panama would be uncomfortable for him. The Peruvian president stated that the goal of all these trips is "to promote the solidarity of all Latin American peoples concerning a common problem such as the foreign debt issue."

BRIEFS

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP MEMBER -- Peruvian Senator Armando Villanueva del Campo has been elected as a member of the Situations Group, a five-member group subordinate to the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The Situations Group has the task of observing the human rights situation in various countries and then reporting its findings to the UN Human Rights Commission. [Summary] [Lima Radioprogramas del Peru Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Mar 86 PY]

IGLESIAS CRITICIZES ARMS SUPPLY TO CONTRAS

PY221442 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Excerpt] Commenting on U.S. President Ronald Reagan's proposal to supply aid to anti-Sandinist guerrilla groups, Uruguayan Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias has stated in Brasilia that the supply of arms to irregular forces is jeopardizing negotiations in Central America. Iglesias and his Brazilian counterpart, Abreu Sodre, installed in Brasilia the Brazilian-Uruguayan General Coordinating Commission. He returned late yesterday to Montevideo. Iglesias declined to comment on the U.S. House decision to vote down on 20 March a $100-million aid bill for the Nicaraguan contras. He said: These are U.S. domestic issues.

COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES TO PASS TO PRESIDENCY

PY211659 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0218 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Montevideo, 20 Mar (EFE) -- The Uruguayan Senate unanimously approved an amendment which returns to the government the power to directly appoint the Armed Forces commander and repeals the national security doctrine. The law, which has yet to be approved by the Chamber of Deputies, returns to the president of the Republic the supreme command of the Armed Forces.

In Article No. 1 the law states that "the commanders in chief of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force will be chosen by the executive board from the generals of the respective force." The new law reduces from 8 to 5 years the maximum term in office of the commanders. Their term of office will "depend on the executive branch's decision. Other retirement criteria, however, remain in effect."

During the military regime that ruled in Uruguay from 1973 until 1985, the Armed Forces commanders were directly appointed by a junta of generals, without the government's intervention. During the first year of the transition toward democracy, which began on 1 March 1985, and in keeping with "Act No 19," which was the result of an agreement between the military and the politicians before the elections, the junta of generals proposed candidates from which the government chose. "Act No. 19" expired on 1 March. The new law notes the specific duties of the Armed Forces and repeals the national security doctrine.

Article No. 3 of the law reads: "The basic duty of the Armed Forces is to defend the honor, independence, and the peace of the republic, its territorial integrity, its Constitution, and its laws." It also notes that "the Armed Forces should always act under the supreme command of the President of the Republic, and the respective ministry in keeping with the constitutional measures currently in force. The new law states that if an officer steps down as commander of any of the Armed Forces branches he must "also retire from the military." The Uruguayan Armed Forces has 65,000 men.

BLANCO PARTY LEADER MEETS SANGUINETTI

PY211330 Montevideo Radio Carve in Spanish 0930 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Excerpt] After holding a lengthy meeting with President Julio Maria Sanguinetti late on the afternoon of 20 March, Blanco Party President Wilson Ferreira Aldunate announced that an agreement to reactivate the economy had been reached. Ferreira said that there is an atmosphere of respect and understanding that will help us overcome our difficulties. He added that it is necessary to regain the people's confidence and that this will be achieved only if the people's economic situation is substantially improved. Ferreira, who practically lost his voice -- he said he shouted to celebrate the victory of Nacional at yesterday's soccer game -- had a broad smile on his face as he was leaving the residence on Suarez Avenue. This is what he told reporters:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Mr Ferriera, does the bright smile with which you said goodbye to the president have any special meaning?

[Ferreira] It means that we no longer live under a dictatorship, that the opposition parties have not declared war on the government, and that we fortunately live in civilized coexistence in an atmosphere marked by mutual respect, understanding, and joint efforts to overcome our difficulties.

[Reporter] Will those difficulties be overcome?

[Ferreira] Well, you know our country has big problems. Please excuse my hoarseness, but it's been so many years since I last cheered my team that [words indistinct] lack of training. Our country has big problems which call for joint action. I do not know whether a joint effort will be enough to solve them, but I do know that there will be no solutions without a common effort.

[Reporter] You are probably aware that the Legislative Palace this afternoon announced that an agreement has been reached. Did you talk about this with the president?

[Ferreira] Yes, during part of our conversation. The Legislative Palace released a document which, to some extent... [Ferreira hesitates] is, so to speak, an account of the negotiations held by the commission in the Legislative Palace. I do not know whether the document is in final form, but it includes a list of the points of agreement and disagreement among the parties.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS ACCREDITED -- FRG Ambassador Horst T. Schirmer, GDR Ambassador Alfred Patzak, and Austrian Ambassador Albert Rohan yesterday presented their credentials to Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 7 Mar 86 p 6 PY]

FISCAL DEFICIT STATISTICS -- A January-December 1985 statistical report published by the Economy and Finance Ministry states that the fiscal deficit of the administration totaled 14.6 billion Uruguayan pesos, which corresponds to 16 percent of expenses. The 1985 average inflation rate was 72.22 percent, and the 1985 deficit was 45 percent less than in the previous year. [Summary] [Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 14 Mar 86 p 7 PY]

GUATEMALA'S CEREZO ARRIVES ON 3-DAY VISIT

PA172215 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2129 GMT 17 Mar 86

[Text] Caracas, 17 Mar (EFE) -- Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo arrived at the Maiquetia International Airport, 20 km north of Caracas, today where he was greeted by his Venezuelan colleague, Social Democrat Jaime Lusinchi.

Cerezo set foot on Venezuelan soil at 1705, thus beginning an official 3-day visit as a guest of President Lusinchi.

The Guatemalan president received military honors befitting his rank and the salute of the members of President Lusinchi's Cabinet, diplomatic corps representatives accredited in the country, and prominent local economic and political figures.

Opposes U.S. Intervention

PA210105 Caracas Television Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] A meeting of Central American presidents will be held on 23-24 May in Esquipulas, Guatemala. This was announced this morning by Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo during a press conference in the La Vineta presidential residence. Here is report by Martin Pacheco:

[Pacheco] The Guatemalan president met with journalists in La Vineta where he referred to various aspects of the grave Central American crisis. According to Cerezo, dialogue and understanding must be maintained as the only way to achieve peace in that strife-torn nation. He said that Contadora logically continues to be the most appropriate means to achieve that understanding. In this sense, he stressed that in the joint declaration that he will sign this afternoon with President Jaime Lusinchi, they will emphasize the importance of Contadora and the historic role it is currently playing to prevent a generalized conflict that would bring truly unpredictable consequences for all Latin America and the entire world.

President Vinicio Cerezo said that his visit to Venezuela has been highly positive. There has been understanding with regard to reciprocity in the trade between the two countries. He said that there has been agreement on economic, political, and social viewpoints and that he has been very impressed by the Venezuelan people. He said that it is very worrisome to see that there are announcements of foreign intervention in the Central American area and he reiterated that peace in the region can only be achieved through a Latin American dialogue. When the reporter of "The News" newscast asked him about the U.S. Government position of helping the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, he said that Guatemala rejects such aid from wherever it may come as well as ideological intervention from wherever it may come, but that it is important that Nicaragua be told about the need to talk with the various internal and external forces in the search for a real democratization in that country.

[Begin Cerezo recording] We would be definitely opposed to direct U.S. intervention, well, a general U.S. intervention -- we have to be careful about the words, in case someone was already preparing to ask me that question...[chuckles] in Nicaragua and in the internal affairs of any of the Central American countries. [end recording]

[Pacheco] The Guatemalan president also stressed that any intervention would mean turning back to eras that we have already overcome.

GOVERNMENT EXPLAINS REJECTION OF MARCOS ASYLUM

PA212038 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2006 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Panama City, 21 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- Eric Arturo Delvalle's government announced officially today its rejection of the request for asylum by former Philippine Ferdinand Marcos, alleging reasons of "state security." Guillermo Antonio Adames, Presidency spokesman, read an official communique from his office this afternoon on the decision reached last night by the government and the five parties of the ruling political alliance.

The communique states that Panama "adopted this decision which apparently contravenes the traditional disposition of its people and government to proceed within the rules of understanding and humanitarianism."

"But beyond these emotional considerations," the brief note states, "the invariable reason is that Panama's state security and that of its people should always prevail."

The communique does not specify how state security would be altered by the presence of the former Philippine President, nor did Adames explain. "We did not consider it an opportune moment," the Presidency spokesman said, in view of the newsmen's insistence.

The decision comes after an "indepth evaluation" of the request presented on Wednesday to permit the "temporary entrance" of Marcos and his family.

After a "prior consultation" with the government and "the highest representatives of the parties of the National Democratic Union (UNADE), the president of the Republic has decided not to accept Mr Marcos' request." Neither the communique nor the presidential spokesman specified why the request was rejected.

Nils Castro, secretary of international relations of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the main party of the ruling political coalition, told ACAN-EFE this morning that the UNADE had asked that the asylum be rejected because it considers Marcos "an undesirable individual." The former Philippine dictator, who is at a U.S. air base in Hawaii, has said he would like to live in Mexico, Spain, or Panama. The governments of Madrid and Panama have already rejected that possibility, while in the Mexican capital there has been no official reply in this regard.

Text of Communique

PA220109 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Communique issued by Presidency Spokesman Guillermo Antonio Adames, dated 21 March 1986]

[Text] The executive power has conducted an in-depth review of the request made to the Government of Panama to allow former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos and his entourage to enter the country. After consulting with the council of Cabinet and top representatives of UNADE, President Eric Arturo Delvalle decided to reject Mr Marco's request. Panama adopts this decision, which seems to contravene the Panamanian Government's and people's traditional stance of acting based on understanding and humanitarianism. However, beyond these emotional considerations, the unchangeable reason of maintaining the security of the state and people of Panama must always prevail. Gullermo Antonio Adames, spokesman for the Presidency of Panama.

TV COMMENTARY ON REAGAN 'DEFEAT' ON CONTRA AID

PA220426 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Station commentary: "Reagan's Defeat"]

[Text] In spite of the fact that the president of the United States personally and directly involved himself in a request to the U.S. Congress for $100 million for those fighting Sandinism, his request has just been rejected. The U.S. House of Representatives had to withstand much pressure to remain firm in its decision not to resupply the rebels who want to overthrow the Managua regime.

Ronald Reagan had not only resorted to the political strength he has as the President of the world's most powerful country, he had also risked a public relations campaign aimed at conditioning the U.S. people into exerting pressure on their U.S. representatives through letters and telephone calls. International analysts here believe that Reagan will change his position and take a revised request to the U.S. Senate that includes the recommendations of the House.

The request could then be approved and then sent back to the House for final approval. Regardless of what happens next, yesterday's vote was a setback for the current Republican administration. The U.S. House spoke loud and clear, pointing out that there are better alternatives for resolving the situation in Central America. One of these alternatives is the proposals of the Contadora Group, of which Panama is a proud member. Contadora is to play a decisive role in the next few weeks. You will see. Thank you.

DELVALLE, COSTA RICA'S MONGE, ARIAS REAFFIRM TIES

PA201339 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2118 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Text] Panama City, 19 Mar (DPA) -- The Costa Rican and Panamanian presidents reaffirmed the friendship between their two countries during their meeting in David, Chiriqui Province, at noon today. Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle met with the two Costa Rican presidents, Luis Alberto Monge, whose term ends in 48 days, and Oscar Arias, who will assume office on 8 May for a 4-year term.

DPA has received an extensive report on the topics discussed by Delvalle, Monge, and Arias which centered on the two countries' efforts to keep peace in their respective territories. Delvalle told Monge and Arias that he agrees with Costa Rica's proclamation of neutrality in the region's armed conflicts. With Arias' approval, Monge indicated that Costa Rica will continue to support the Contadora Group. The three presidents agreed, however, that it is necessary for this pacification group to speed up its efforts to attain its objectives and, if necessary, pressure Nicaragua into making some concessions for the sake of peace.

The presidents thoroughly analyzed the status of the Contadora Group negotiations. This part of the meeting was attended by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez, and future foreign minister Rodrigo Madrigal. The presidents also discussed trade between the two countries in which Costa Rica has a surplus. The Panamanian president expressed to his Costa Rican counterparts his concern over the trade balance and the need to try to balance it and to prevent it from affecting Panama's commercial balance. It was agreed that two Panamanian-Costa Rican commissions will meet in a few weeks to consider a list of products that Panama could sell to Costa Rica.

The presidents analyzed the integration program situation in the border area and the achievements in joint educational, agricultural and livestock, and industrial trials.

The integration plan for the Costa Rica-Panama border aims at turning this region into a vast commercial and agricultural and livestock area of integration through the installation of some agricultural industries to employ Costa Ricans and Panamanians.

In principle, it was agreed that authorities of the two countries will meet to draft a regulation for the border area that will permit speedier transactions and strict control to prevent contraband to and from both sides of the border.

Both Monge and Arias disagreed with the Panamanian initiative to hold a large meeting of Central American presidents in Panama City to analyze Latin America's major problems. The presidents discussed the two countries' foreign debt problems in general and exchanged views on a possible overall solution and each country's special attention to its particular debt.

Delvalle listened attentively to the two Costa Rican presidents' explanation of their country's refinancing of its $4 billion foreign debt. Panama's foreign debt has reached approximately $4.1 billion.

The Panamanian president accepted the Costa Rica president-elect's invitation to attend the inauguration ceremony on 8 May in San Jose. After the meeting, the presidents opened the traditional fair in David. The Costa Rican presidents will return to their country tomorrow.

NORIEGA VIEWS STRIKE; ARIAS, DELVALLE ON MEETING

PA210121 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] The commander in chief of the Panamanian Defense Forces, General Manuel Antonio Noriega, has stated in Chiriqui that the banana strike is about to be solved. The general made the statements at the conclusion of a meeting with the presidents of Costa Rica and Panama, Luis Alberto Monge and Eric Arturo Delvalle, as well as Costa Rican President-elect, Oscar Arias. Our special correspondents, Ciro Ortega and Rolando Aizpu will now give us this special report.

[Begin recording] [Ortega] Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle and the commander in chief of the Defense Forces, Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega, met last night in David, Chiriqui Province, with Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge and President-elect Oscar Arias. Members of the cabinets of the two nations, as well as other high-ranking military officers of Panama and of the Civil Guard of Costa Rica attended the somewhat informal meeting held at the home of Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia. During that meeting, Gen Noriega made some statements to the press concerning the latest developments that have taken place in the country, and that have affected the economic situation.

[Noriega] We think that the workers are a basic force who should be consulted on their opinions and stands in order to reach an implementation that will favor the working class. We, the members of the Defense Forces, reiterate that is our stand. We know that the president of the Republic feels the same way and that we are willing to work so that the working class will not be affected, will not be fenced in, and we wish to state that their leaders have followed a very dignified stand, for which we wish to publicly express our appreciation and recognition.

[Ortega] In addition to this general labor conflict there is a strike at the banana plantations that is considered critical in this area. How do you feel about that?

[Noriega] We think that the banana workers' union has always been a very mature union; it is one of the most conscientious unions; and its struggles have always been just struggles. Likewise, the representatives of the United Brand Company have always admired this struggle, they have been aware of these struggles, and I think we can foretell that these two groups have the positive attitude of rapprochement and the company will accept the banana workers' claims. This will favor production, because they know Panama is a positive source of banana production, where the Panamanian workers have always had a large investment. I think their differences are only differences of concepts, where the two parties can achieve in less than 72 hours a final settlement.

[Ortega] Meanwhile, Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias said his visit to David City was a positive one, pointing out that the bilateral relations between the two countries have been strengthened. He also emphasized the Central American situation, saying:

[Arias] The democratic and pacifist tradition of Costa Rica compels us to strive together with Panama, as a member of the Contadora Group, so that the Central American conflicts will be solved through dialogue and negotiations. We believe this is a civilized world, and Central America is no exception. Therefore, we have absolute faith and confidence that it is much better to make all sorts of efforts so that the conflicts prevailing in the Central American region will be solved and settled through negotiations and dialogue.

[Ortega] Meanwhile, Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle pointed out that the meeting with the high-ranking Costa Rican officials has been positive for the benefit of both nations. When consulted about the reduction in the prices of petroleum by-products, the Panamanian president said:

[Delvalle] We do not know what will be the outcome of the OPEC meeting held today in Geneva. We are cautiously investigating all details. It is important for the country to learn that all of the petroleum that is in the country now is conditioned to previous prices. Recently, we even had to complain to Mexico, one of our main suppliers, about a shipment they were invoicing for approximately $20 instead of the approximately $19 which was the current price at that time. Two days ago, they confirmed that the price was $19. However, the people and the entire country are now talking about $15, 14, 12, 10, 9 but these are not the real prices. The real prices of our current inventory are probably fluctuating over $22 and, in due time, we will reduce the price which the Panamanian people deserve.

[Ortega] Our news team asked President Delvalle about the doctor's strike which is now over 3 weeks old.

[Delvalle] I wish to appeal to the feeling of all Panamanian doctors to reconsider their stand. In the last 2 weeks, they have been struggling and requesting just demands. They are right in certain cases, and we are willing to talk about those just demands. In other cases, we think they have been influenced by political stands that really have nothing to do with the conflict between the doctors and public health. The government has always said it is willing to negotiate these differences, we are willing to do this, and we have said this on several occasions. We hope that very soon we will be able to sit down and discuss these differences.

[Ortega] Mr President, since you are talking about reconsiderations by part of the doctors, would there be any possibility that you would also reconsider the measure that says the doctors have to pick up their paychecks in public places?

[Delvalle] Of course, I only said in my speech that if they had the courage to pick up their paychecks without having worked, they should do this before God and the people, whom they had not treated. I reiterate that stand. I am not threatening nor am I humiliating the doctors. On the contrary, I respect them very much, I believe they deserve all of our considerations and respect. However, the people should not pay for services that are not being rendered. This is a poor country, this is a country experiencing serious difficulties with the purpose of achieving financing that will help us overcome this serious economic crisis. I believe that the country in general should express appreciation for our government for having adopted that stand. In other words, he who works should be paid, and he who does not work should not be paid. [end recording]

CONATO COORDINATOR SAYS STRIKE 'POSITIVE'

PA221525 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 p 2-a

[Text] Jose Manuel Meneses, coordinator of the National Council of Organized Workers (Conato), has told LA PRENSA that although the withdrawal of three Legislative Assembly bills was not achieved, a partial analysis of the results of the indefinite general strike that paralyzed the country for 10 days revealed that in general terms the strike was positive, the labor movement has been strengthened, and an undeniable strength has been demonstrated. Nevertheless, Meneses pointed out that a general analysis of the event is difficult now due to the short period of time that has elapsed since the strike ended. Meneses explained that the objective of the strike was to achieve the withdrawal of the Legislative Assembly's three bills and he rejected statements by the Coordinating Board for National Civilianization (Cocina) that the "Conato leaders sold themselves," and that "we have lost the opportunity to topple the Defense Forces."

Asked what new tactical actions Conato will adopt, Meneses said that "in reality we are regrouping our forces. We believe that first we must struggle at the general level of the labor movement against the three laws, and second, we believe that if this does not solve the unemployment problem, we should not have to face situations that force the workers to adopt measures at each institution on their own."

Asked how Conato will implement the withdrawal of its support to the central government, the labor leader said "we will withdraw our union representatives from the Social Security Fund, the National Institute for Professional Training, the Labor Ministry Conciliation and Decision Junta, Price Control Office, and Inaford [not further identified], in view of the fact that the workers are still being deceived." Regarding the manner in which withdrawal from the government institutions will take place, Meneses said "we believe this action will express the labor movement's displeasure. We lose nothing because of it, but we believe that if Conato's statements are taken into account we will be given a greater participation than we have at the present time."

Meanwhile, Meneses stressed that the groups that form part of the Central of Panamanian Transport Workers will be expelled from the Conato, with only a few exceptions, because they ignored the labor movement strike. Asked what made him call off the general indefinite strike Meneses said that "honestly, the workers were beginning to show the signs of wear and tear. It was a first experience; we had carried out indefinite 48-hour strikes before but this was a new attempt. We believe it was very successful, but we could not play with the situation. The prestige the labor movement has earned could be lost if we do not employ tactics at this time."

Finally, Menseses said that "the battle does not end here; we believe this is a very important phase for the labor movement, but we know that the situation will become much more difficult because we have insisted that the problems stated by the government will not be solved."

REGIONAL PRESIDENTS SIGN JOINT DECLARATION

PA200427 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 17 Mar 86 p 3

[Joint declaration issued by President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala, President Jose Azcona of Honduras, and President-elect Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, on 13 March 1986]

[Text] On the occasion of the visit Costa Rican President-elect Oscar Arias Sanchez, made to the presidents of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, we agreed during our cordial meetings to support Salvadoran President Napoleon Duarte's proposal to invite Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega and President Duarte to begin dialogues with the opposition in their respective countries to seek a national reconciliation.

We the signatories of this declaration, in view of our high office and with the knowledge of the storm hovering over Central America, know that peace in the region must be based on dialogue and understanding with the people of each of these countries and on their solidarity for the exercise of democracy. Those of us who do not want a war must definitely support all those measures, like the one that President Duarte has submitted, which will help to stop violence and reconcile the feuding parties.

Our support of his interesting proposal is not an isolated act. We have done this convinced of the need to make a great and serious effort among all the democracies of the world, to try to convince the Nicaraguan authorities to accept the importance of holding a dialogue, to establish the proper conditions for peace in Central America and to consolidate democracy.

COSTA RICA

AGREEMENT WITH NICARAGUA ON BORDER COMMISSION

PA231948 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 Mar 86 p 2

[Text] In the framework of the Contadora Group, last night Costa Rica and Nicaragua approved the bases for a border control and supervision agreement. The following document was released at 2230 after a protracted meeting of the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan delegations and the four Contadora deputy foreign ministers:

I. Nature:

1. A permanent civilian mission will be advised by defense and security specialists.

II. Functions:

1. The mission will observe, investigate, inspect in situ, and verify incidents or facts that might cause border tension.

2. The mission will prepare reports for and make recommendations to the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments and will deliver such reports to the governments of the commission's member-countries.

III. Pledge by the Parties:

1. The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments pledge to ensure the enforcement of the recommendations or the necessary measures to correct the situation that has brought about the investigation.

IV. Structure and Formation:

1. An executive commission will be formed by civilian representatives of the participating countries (Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Contadora Group, and Support Group). This commission will be responsible for directing the work and the Contadora and the Support Groups will rotate coordiantion responsibilities.

2. An inspection and observation subcommission will be formed by defense and security advisers living on either side of the border and belonging to the Contadora Group and the Support Group.

V. The Commission's Safety:

1. The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments will supply all means within their reach to guarantee commission members' integrity and safety.

VI. Supplies and Financing:

1. Contributions from the Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments.

The Costa Rican and Nicaraguan Governments pledge to cover all expenses related to lodging, food, health, offices, secretarial assistance, and office equipment in their respective territories. The fuel supply will be agreed upon later.

In addition, the parties will let commission members use the parties' communications systems -- whenever possible -- within the capabilities of each of the host countries.

2. To implement the above, the two parties agree to negotiate the necessary funds.

3. Contributions from the governments of the Contadora and Support Group countries and other countries.

The Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua stated that for the proper functioning of the commission, aircraft, boats, light land vehicles, and communication equipment will be needed. Equally important are the crews, mechanics, and operators, as well as the spare parts for the above mentioned vehicles and communication equipment. In this regard, the two governments request that the Contadora Group, with the cooperation of the Support Group, negotiate with the international community to get their support for the necessary financial aid and material support.

VII. Immunity and Privileges:

To guarantee the proper development of the work of the commission and its personnel, the issue regarding immunity, privileges, and facilities will be established in an agreement that will be made between the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua with the countries participating in the Commission.

While this agreement is being negotiated, the two parties agree to extend all privileges and immunities, as established in the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations, to all commission personnel as long as they remain with the diplomatic missions in Nicaragua or Costa Rica.

VIII. The issue of insurance and civil responsibility will be dealt with in another agreement to be drafted at a later date.

IX. Within the framework of these negotiations, the Governments of Costa Rica and Nicaragua agreed to ask the members of the Contadora and Support Groups, with the participation of representatives of the two countries, to carry out a general inspection of the common border, and that this general inspection be done as soon as possible. Regarding the general inspection, the two governments have expressed their willingness to provide the commission with what it needs.

X. The agreement that will be signed will have 1 year validity with automatic extensions for the same length of time. After the 1st year, either of the two parties involved can request the termination of the agreement 6 months prior to the dates of extension. This decision must be presented in a note to the other party involved with copies to the participating countries.

Given in San Jose, Costa Rica, on the 12th day of March 1986.

For Costa Rica: Gerardo Trejos
For Nicaragua: Victor Hugo Tinoco

EL SALVADOR

VICE PRESIDENT ON ARMS TRAFFICKING ISSUE

PA211504 San Salvador Television Educativa in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Vice President Rodolfo Castillo Claramount has said that the seizure of arms in Honduras for the Salvadoran guerrillas proves once more that the permanent arms trafficking from Nicaragua into El Salvador continues. The Honduran press has reported extensively about the discovery of arms and supplies destined for the Salvadoran terrorists that the Honduran Armed Forces recently captured in San Isidro de Camasca, Intibuca, Colomoncagua jurisdiction. According to Honduran Armed Forces spokesmen, employees and officials of the UNCHR are involved in this action. Reporters have found that this is not the first time that such charges have been filed because, according to the Honduran press, similar charges against UNCHR employees have been presented in the past.

For the moment, there has not been a UNCHR statement or response to the serious accusations regarding the organization officials' complicity with Salvadoran terrorists in arms trafficking.

Castillo Claramount explained the government's position:

[Begin recording] We don't know the exact number of weapons. However, we do know that these weapons were manufactured by countries behind the Iron Curtain. We will have complete information today or tomorrow. We might even have videotapes. These could be shown to the people once they have been processed by Salvadoran Armed Forces high command. This finding further verifies the permanent trafficking of arms to El Salvador. If these people are really involved, their behavior is questionable. I cannot confirm their participation. We only have preliminary reports. As soon as we have clarified this information, we will protest these actions. We must bear in mind that this is part of the actions fostered and approved by the Managua government to destabilize the Salvadoran Government. [end recording]

VIERA ON CAPTURED REBELS, HOLY WEEK TRUCE

PA221922 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 18 Mar 86 p 3

[Text] Deputy Communications Minister Roberto Edmundo Viera has told EL MUNDO that the nine guerrillas recently captured by the Armed Forces in the Chalatenango area are recovering and that it is false that they are to be exchanged for Colonel Omar Napoleon Avalos, who was kidnapped by the FMLN from his farm in late 1985.

The official said that the wounded guerrillas will leave the country. He said that the Armed Forces, the church, and other humanitarian organizations could begin talks to decide whether the guerrillas will leave the country and under what conditions. He explained that the FMLN fighters were captured by the Army during operations that are part of a military offensive to seize areas that for some time were zones where the guerrillas operated, but which have not been abandoned. He said that the Army is treating the wounded guerrillas in a humane manner.

Regarding the departure of the guerrillas, he said that to date no country has offered to receive them. He said he is unaware of specific offers from any country. Meanwhile, the FMLN guerrillas have said that the capture of the combatants violates the Geneva conventions.

Regarding the topic of a Holy Week truce, which Msgr Rivera y Damas has described as something desired by the Salvadorans, Viera said that there has been no official proposal in this regard, and that if there were, the government would study it and hold talks with the church. Nevertheless, when he was asked about the entrance of the FMLN-FDR representatives to present a proposal to the San Salvador archbishop and if the government would grant them safe-conduct, he said that this would fall within the process of the phases of dialogue. For the time being, I reiterate that if they enter the country they will be prosecuted, but if they enter within the context of the dialogue, as on previous occasions, different mechanisms will have to be used to permit their entrance and departure at a specific time, he said. For the time being nothing is set and no decision has been made, he added.

Regarding the march held by the National Peasant-Worker Unity on Saturday, which according to some sectors was organized by the government to support it and its so-called economic package, the deputy minister said that this march, like other smaller marches held recently, confirms to the world and to El Salvador that there is democracy here. Viera asked what would have happened at such demonstrations in 1970, when participants in such marches were beaten and arrested or disappeared.

BUSINESS GROUPS FORM NEW PRODUCTIVE UNION

PA212306 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Mar 86 p 45

[Charter of the Salvadoran Productive Union, [Union Productiva Salvadorena], UPS, published as a paid advertisement; issued in San Salvador on 13 Mar 1986]

[Text] By unanimous agreement of the representatives of the organizations that participated in the Forum on Unity of Businesses for the Defense of Economic Freedom and National Reactivation in El Salvador, held in San Salvador on 13 March 1986, the organization to be named Salvadoran Productive Union, is hereby established. This new organization will have as its goals:

1. To defend the Constitution of the Republic and to ensure that the rules that establish our country as a legal state are strictly adhered to.

2. To strengthen representative democracy as established in our Constitution as the only system that allows the people to freely express their political will, thus rejecting all kinds of totalitarian government.

3. To defend the principles of free enterprise, for it constitutes the adequate means of achieving economic efficiency for the benefit of all social classes.

4. To resolutely struggle against all government efforts to impose state control over, or to collectivize private enterprise to prevent the restriction or elimination of free enterprise, which would lead to the political, economic, and social enslavement of the people.

5. To demand the full enforcement of the constitutional principle that guarantees freedom of thought, and to condemn any attempt by the public to undermine this elementary right.

6. To strengthen the unity of the productive system within the framework of harmonious relations between workers and employers.

7. To seek, by constitutional mechanisms, the resolution of the conflict that threatens to destroy the country's institutions.

8. To represent the productive sector in all matters regarding the overall improvement of our fatherland.

San Salvador, 13 March 1986

Organizing Committee. Salvadoran Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Association of Salvadoran Businessmen and Industrialists; Salvadoran Association of Industrialists; and Council of Agricultural Associations.

VENCEREMOS COMMENTS ON CONTRA AID DEFEAT

PA212026 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1922 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Station commentary: "Another Defeat for the Rambo Reagan Doctrine"]

[Text] The U.S. House of Representatives voted against the $100 million in aid for the Somozist counterrevolutionaries. In an immoral debate on the internal affairs of a Latin American country like Nicaragua, 222 legislators rejected the request by Reagan who, despite a desperate speech and intense pressures, was only able to obtain 210 votes.

In a mournful tone, Ronald Reagan said yesterday that it had been a dark day for his Central America policy. In the House of Representatives debate, democratic legislators said that Reagan's plan went against the will of the U.S. people and the feelings of the Latin American countries which, through the Contadora Group and the statements of the majority of their leaders and political parties, have condemned the $100 million in aid to the Somozists.

EEC spokesmen today expressed their satisfaction over Ronald Reagan's defeat because they said that the $100 million would sabotage the Contadora peace efforts.

At the same time as the defeat of Reagan's policy of aggression against Central America was made known, Spain announced that it will give the Sandinist government $26 million for social programs to benefit the Nicaraguan people. Meanwhile, counterrevolutionary Eden Pastora expressed his displeasure over the vote against the $100 million because his dismembered forces in Miami and Costa Rica had been waiting for their share of dollars.

In the FRG, the Social Democratic Party said that Reagan should bear this defeat in mind and abandon the military option to resolve the Central American crisis. It also said the fact that the U.S. Government is trying to topple another sovereign government with which it has diplomatic relations is immoral and contrary to international law.

Meanwhile, in Nicaragua, Reagan's defeat was cautiously celebrated amid a great combative mobilization of the popular organizations that are alert to provide defense and at the same time enthusiastically continue production tasks while in Zelaya Department, the EPS dealt another blow to the Somozist counterrevolution by dismantling a base with a toll of many casualties in that area of Nicaragua.

Most of the Latin American governments, led by Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay, and others, are now planning to strengthen the Contadora Group at a tense moment in the Central American region.

The beaten Somozist counterrevolutionary forces will undoubtedly undergo a process of disintegration since only the promise of more dollars kept them in their camps in Honduras.

Nicaragua is coming out of this situation stronger and with greater international recognition and support. Meanwhile, in Honduras, there are increasing feelings against the presence of U.S. troops and Somozist forces in its territory.

GUATEMALA

CEREZO SAYS NICARAGUA SHOULD BEGIN CONTRA DIALOGUE

PA222030 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1634 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] San Juan, Puerto Rico, 22 Mar (DPA) -- President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo said today that the Nicaraguan Government should reciprocate the position of the U.S. Congress, which rejected funds to aid the Contras, by opening a dialogue with the opposition. The Guatemalan president also asked the Nicaraguan Government to "react in view of the responsibility it has as Central Americans" to prevent a war that could affect the entire region.

"In some way, the U.S. Congress," Cerezo added, "has transferred the problem to the Nicaraguan Government. I think it must reciprocate that position of the U.S. Congress by opening a dialogue with the opposition and establishing a political space to take the problem to a political negotiation and not to confrontation."

"If steps are not taken in this regard," Cerezo added, "President Reagan would justifiably have sufficient reasons to insist on the aid process."

"I believe, as I have previously stated, that the problem can be resolved if both internal parties -- the Nicaraguan Government and the opposition -- and both international parties -- Nicaragua and the United States -- simultaneously carry out actions to create an opportunity for political negotiation."

Cerezo said he hopes the Sandinist leaders will "react in view of their Central American responsibility because," he explained, "maintaining hard-line, intransigent positions can lead to the generalization of the conflict which would affect all of us."

"Just as we respect the independent decisions of Nicaragua and its people, we ask that our interest in safeguarding our peoples from violence or a war be taken into consideration," the Central American president said.

Cerezo, who is attending a meeting in Puerto Rico on the Puerto Rican proposal for the establishment of complementary factories, held a press conference this morning.

Regarding his stay in Puerto Rico, he said that in his first meeting with Puerto Rico Governor Rafael Hernandez Colon they voiced the "desire" to begin trade and cultural relations between Puerto Rico and Guatemala, and he added that he will meet again with the governor to conclude agreements in that regard.

He also said that during the meeting, which was also attended by delegations of many Caribbean countries, contacts were begun for the possible establishment of diplomatic relations with Caribbean countries.

Cerezo expressed support for measures that will lead to a greater economic integration of Central America and voiced interest in expanding those relations to the Caribbean.

HONDURAS

AZCONA DISCUSSES BORDER TENSION WITH ORTEGA

PA220127 Paris AFP in Spanish 0023 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 21 Mar (AFP) -- President Jose Azcona revealed today that he had established contact with his Nicaraguan counterpart Daniel Ortega to evaluate the tense situation that has emerged on the border between their two countries.

Azcona noted that during his dialogue, supposedly by telephone, with Ortega, ne told the Nicaragua leader of his concern over the situation that the Nicaraguan conflict has created in the Honduran towns near the border.

The Honduran leader gave no more details about his conversation with the Sandinist leader but said that he trusts that Nicaragua will be able to resolve its domestic conflict. Azcona confirmed that Honduran troops have been sent to the border area "to protect the civilian population" but noted that the number of soldiers mobilized "is much lower" than that reported by the media.

The chief of state said that Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regaldo consulted him this past Wednesday about the suitability of sending troops to the border area to protect the population, which fears that there will be clashes between the Nicaraguan contras and the Sandinists.

"I authorized the mobilization and asked that this be done prudently, and it was done so," Azcona said. At one point, the Honduran president tacitly admitted that there could be Nicaraguan contras in Honduras territory when he said "they have fallen back."

Combat Units on 'Red Alert'

PA221840 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1818 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- According to spokesmen for the President, several Honduran Army combat units have been placed on red alert in view of the deployment of strong Sandinist contingents at the Nicaraguan border.

The Honduran Army High Command has also ordered the deployment of some battalions to specific areas near the border. This move was taken to be prepared to confront any war action in the area. Officially, the number of deployed troops or units on alert has not been disclosed. According to reports from sources closely linked to Honduran Army intelligence, it is known that the Sandinists have deployed between 5,000 and 8,000 men on the border. They are being supported by artillery. The same sources said that the Sandinists will probably try to carry out some actions using the pretext that they are persecuting the counterrevolutionaries who mobilize along the common border.

The families of Air Force officers have confirmed that their relatives were quartered this weekend. The residents along the border with Nicaragua have complained that hundreds of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries are crossing into Honduras and are setting up their camps near several villages in El Paraiso Department. The complaints also mention some abuses by the counterrevolutionaries against the civilians and the absence of Honduran soldiers to provide protection.

Although the Honduran official sector has not publicly reacted to the nonapproval of the $100 million aid that President Ronald Reagan had requested for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries, it has expressed its concern privately. A senior official of the presidential house confided to ACAN-EFE that "if the contras do not receive aid they will take refuge in Honduras, and they will unleash some disturbances that will force our troops to react with force against them. This could lead to an unnecessary bloodbath."

"In addition, we do not want to occurrence of something similar to what is happening in Lebanon where various foreign forces are fighting and the only ones being harmed are the Lebanese," the official, who asked to remain anonymous, added. The same source said that "maybe it would be better if the United States gave the aid to the contras through Honduras than not give it at all."

FOREIGN SECRETARY ON USE OF TERRITORY, CONTRA AID

PA211603 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[Interview with Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras by Regina Osorio at the Foreign Secretariat on 18 March -- recorded]

[Text] [Osorio] U.S. officials such as the secretary of defense and the secretary of state have said that Honduras will support U.S. policy in Central America by lending its territory for Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary groups to operate.

However, President Azcona and you, as the foreign secretary, have stated the opposite. However, it is still being reported in the U.S. media that the United States counts on Honduran assistance.

[Lopez Contreras] I think that the president has been very clear. He said that Honduras views the special relationship it has with the United States in security matters as a pillar of its own security. But that is only one aspect. We are interested, and they are also interested, of course, in having a special relationship with Honduras to promote their own interests. To the extent that they are interests in common with Honduras we are willing to cooperate.

However, what Honduras cannot do is violate international law, and international law clearly states that no state can lend its territory to train [troops] or to launch attacks on established governments. Honduras respects that principle of international law, and it also expects neighboring countries to observe reciprocity in this regard.

[Osorio] What does Reagan mean when he says that there are 25,000 armed men, counterrevolutionaries, and that he considers himself a contra? Does this mean that the U.S. President would be willing to unleash a conflict in the Central American area?

[Lopez Contreras] I don't know, because U.S. foreign policy, especially in the long-term, is very unpredictable. Therefore, I think that one must very carefully evaluate statements by U.S. Government spokesmen and not give them independent meanings or treat them individually. They must be viewed within a context which, sometimes, if we get to know it, assumes a certain importance. I tell you this because experience shows that it is very difficult to say that the U.S. Government commits itself with a single statement. It is better to wait and see. It is better to see which way the voting on the contra aid will go at the U.S. Congress on Thursday.

[Osorio] What will be the definite position of the Honduran Government? Will it accept or reject the presence of the counterrevolutionaries in Honduran territory, taking into account that if the $100-million in aid is rejected these people, these armed groups, may enter Honduras and cause social problems?

[Lopez Contreras] Honduras' official position has been stated several times. Our territory will not be used to harass neighboring republics and governments because the only sovereign in Honduras is the republic; consequently, armed men in this country should only be those of the Honduran Armed Forces, who represent our sovereignty.

Further Comments

PA211428 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 19 Mar 86 p 31

[Text] Foreign Secretary Carlos Lopez Contreras met yesterday with high-ranking Army officers to discuss every aspect of the country's defense, especially the security aspect and the Central American crisis.

The head of the Honduran Foreign Secretariat met with Colonel Wilfredo Sanchez, commander of Public Security Forces (FUSEP); Colonel Leonel Riera Lunatti, commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion; Colonel Leoneo Gutierrez Minera, commander of the 2d Infantry Battalion; and Edgardo Mejia of the Honduran Air Force.

The foreign secretary was explicit in stating that the weekend military clash with Nicaragua and the charge that the office of the UNHCR is collaborating with the Salvadoran insurgency in weapons trafficking were not discussed during the meeting.

He was also very emphatic in stating that he would not comment on these issues because he did not have precise information and that the Armed Forces have been asked to present a report.

Nevertheless, the foreign secretary said, if the Army's charges regarding the involvement of UNHCR officials in weapons trafficking are proven to be true then these actions, which he described as highly irregular, will have to be corrected. Lopez Contreras also said that the fact that Honduras is being involved in the issue of aid to the "contras" who are fighting to overthrow the Sandinists is due to party differences in the United States. For this reason, the foreign secretary said, "we should not be surprised by the fact that statements are being made" about Honduras being involved in this issue. The foreign secretary was referring to the statements made by his U.S. counterpart to the effect that the Reagan administration made arrangements with Azcona Hoyo to allow Honduran territory to be used to deliver the aid to the Nicaraguan rebels.

The head of the Honduran diplomacy defended Honduras' traditional position that no support is being given to the "contras," and that the country is not involved in the struggle against the Sandinists.

Meanwhile, the foreign secretary said that since he assumed the office of foreign secretary, tension with Nicaragua has decreased; lowering his voice he said that the recent confrontation will not change his policy because these confrontations have been occurring for some time now.

Lopez Contreras said that Honduras wishes to project a different foreign image and that they [the government] wish to show the country as a nation with domestic peace that the neighbors do not enjoy. Lopez Contreras added that this measures is aimed at attracting investors to Honduras so that their investments will create more jobs and, in turn, reduce the economic and social problems that the country is experiencing.

The foreign secretary said that the diplomacy being developed by the country is aimed at reducing the regional crisis and confrontation, and in this way achieving the results sought by Jose Azcona Hoyo's current administration.

U.S. PLANES REPORTEDLY DAMAGE AIRPORT RUNWAYS

PA211426 Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Mar 86

[By Regina Osorio]

[Text] Military leaders from the Francisco Morazan jurisdiction and Foreign Secretariat officials held an important meeting this morning to review certain international treaties with the United States. They specifically discussed certain physical problems affecting our airports because of the military maneuvers.

Air Force Commander Ricardo Mejia, Public Secretary Force [FUSEP] Commander Colonel Wilfredo Sanchez, and Colonels Leonel Gutierrez Minera and Leonel Riera Lunatti met today for several hours with the foreign secretary and Foreign Secretariat advisers to review protocols pending negotiation with the U.S. Government.

According to FUSEP Commander Col Sanchez, they analyzed the regulations of certain treaties because the country's runways and airports have deteriorated or have been damaged by U.S. planes. An evaluation of the damage is being carried out and, subsequently, the U.S. Government reportedly is to contribute to their repair. We consulted Col Riera Lunatti, commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion:

[Begin recording] [Riera Lunatti] We are discussing the protocol that involves the maintenance of military installations.

[Osorio] We had been told that due to the constant landing of certain U.S. planes, heavy cargo planes, our runways have deteriorated and perhaps they will contribute to their repair in years to come?

[Riera Lunatti] Yes, the protocols will contemplate that. [end recording]

COMMERCIAL TRUCKS BACKED UP AT NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA222255 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2221 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 22 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- It was reported here today that Central American trade was hampered this week by Nicaragua's refusal to permit trucks full of merchandise to pass through from Honduras. One hundred trucks from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, and northern Honduras are parked at the El Espino customs post awaiting Nicaragua's authorization to move on.

According to reports from this border area in southern Honduras, the Managua government has taken this measure as a result of the latest clashes between Sandinist People's Army soldiers and counterrevolutionaries who fight against the Nicaraguan Government

Clashes between Honduran and Sandinist troops were reported last week, but no dead or wounded were mentioned, only material damage at the La Fraternidad customs post in the southern department of Choluteca. Residents of El Espino have been evacuated by Honduran authorities, and journalists have been forbidden to enter the area in view of a possible clash between Hondurans and Nicaraguans.

In addition, truck drivers have been instructed to move back 8 km from the Nicaraguan border. Cargo drivers have expressed their concern because many of the products are about to rot due to the excess time in the trailers.

According to official reports, Honduran Army members have been sent to a location near the border with Nicaragua in anticipation of incidents with Sandinst troops. Some local residents have said that several Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries have entered Honduras fleeing from the Sandinists. It has also been reported that Nicaragua has sent in more military reinforcements to the border with Honduras.

NICARAGUA

ORTEGA RESPONDS TO REAGAN REACTION ON AID VOTE

PA211843 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] In his first reaction after the defeat suffered in Congress, President Reagan described the voting as a dark day for liberty. In a virtual declaration of war, Reagan said that he will try time and again until the battle is won.

He announced that he will begin pressuring the Senate tomorrow, and then he will renew his attack on the use of Representatives. He also issued a message to the mercenary forces.

President Daniel Ortega, with a copy of President Reagan's statement in his hands, replied to this new declaration of war in an interview to a Sandinist newscast.

[Begin recording] I think that these remarks by President Reagan immediately after the rejection of the $100 million show that the battle against the U.S. aggressive policy continues and will continue, because the U.S. President is once again talking in a completely irresponsible and aggressive manner that violates international relations.

In the announcement, he said that today is a dark day for him. He said that he will insist on the support for the mercenary forces. He issued a call to the contras and to the U.S. public to back him in his terrorist policy against Nicaragua.

This shows that the U.S. President will continue insisting on his policy to destroy or to try to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution. He will do everything and will talk in the most aggressive manner [words indistinct] in order to attain his objective. Therefore, we will continue in the struggle against the terrorist policy of the United States promoted and defended by the U.S. President. The policy of peace defended by Nicaragua, which is supported by the people of the United States, and peoples of Latin America, and the Latin American governments who have been raising their voices against these U.S. terrorist policy in the past few days. [sentence as heard]

Logically, we will continue fighting for peace on the military terrain facing the mercenary forces, the military advisers -- if the U.S. President sends them -- and his troops, if he also sends them. However, we are also willing to make peace [words indistinct] the best path with the U.S. President who should reflect, act wisely, and help give peace a victory in Central America. [end recording]

Warns of Reagan Plans

PA231503 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1327 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] President Daniel Ortega Saavedra warned our people yesterday about the Reagan administration's warmongering plans, stating that it is preparing to escalate the war in Nicaragua. In addition to requesting $100 million to continue financing the counterrevolutionary bands, President Reagan has said that if the aid is approved, he will send U.S. (?advisers) to train the mercenary forces on the spot, Ortega said.

The Nicaraguan president, who was accompanied by his Cabinet members, delivered a speech to more than 1,000 zone, neighborhood, and regional leaders of the Sandinist Defense Committee, CDS. Ortega analyzed the decision on whether to invade Nicaragua which is being considered by the U.S. Congress. Within this context, Commander Ortega examined two points: the violation of international laws, and Reagan's determination to foster a military escalation. He added that each defeat suffered from our people leads to Reagan's final kick, the mercenary invasion.

[Begin recording] We must stress two elements concerning this issue. One is: Why is the U.S. Congress debating this matter of the $100 million? Why is the U.S. Congress doing this?

Who has ordered it, who has authorized the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Government to do this? Who has given them that authority? I would like to know who authorized them. Have they been authorized by the United Nations? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Has the United Nations given the U.S. Government that representation or authority? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Has the International Court of Justice given them that authority, representation, or order? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Have the Latin American governments given them that order? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Have the U.S. people given them that authority? [Crowd shouts: "No!"] Not even the U.S. people have given them that authority or order. Then, we reject the action itself of holding debates on this issue.

The correct attitude on the part of the U.S. Congress -- if they respected international laws, if they had any respect for moral and order -- would be to respond to President Reagan's request for $27 or $100 million, or any amount with the reply: We have nothing to discuss because it is illegal and immoral. However, they engage in discussions and debates, violating international laws. On the one hand, the action is immoral and illegal. This is the first element we wanted to mention. It is an immoral and illegal action.

Now, the next element is that it represents military escalation. It is a military escalation. Why? The fact that they are considering giving or approving more funds for the contras shows that the money they were previously receiving was not enough and that they are being defeated. It also means that their ability to face our organized people and our Army is limited and reduced, because we are defeating them. Therefore, President Reagan says: Let us give them more money and also send military advisers to back and support them on the spot, and to train them on the spot. [end recording]

ORTEGA WANTS TALKS WITH REAGAN AS CONTRA CHIEF

PA231315 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1229 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Managua, 23 Mar (REUTER) -- President Daniel Ortega has called for holding peace talks with President Ronald Reagan, who he said is preparing for a Vietnam-style war in Central America.

"We would talk with him at any time... here in Managua or Washington," Ortega said during a meeting with the heads of the Sandinist Defense Committee held here. The president said that Reagan wants to intensify the war against his country through increasing support for the guerrillas, commonly referred to as the "contras," who seek to oust the leftist authorities in Managua.

"We seek a peaceful solution," Orgeta said. "We want a dialogue with the chief of the contras," he added. Ortega said that Reagan's proposal to send U.S. military advisers to train the contras as part of his proposal to grant $100 million in aid for the insurgents placed the United States "on the threshold of a Vietnamization of the conflict."

However, Ortega warned that in spite of the actions of the U.S. military advisers the contras were defeated, and therefore Washington will make another appeal to send troops, helicopters, and U.S. planes, "setting on fire" all of Central America.

On Thursday, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected Reagan's request for funds for the contras, but the head of the White House forecast that his proposal, which includes $70 million in military aid, will be approved next month following a new debate among the representatives (deputies).

EDITORIAL VIEWS U.S. HOUSE CONTRA VOTE

PA220034 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Mar 86 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "An Alert Against a Declaration of War"]

[Text] The Nicaraguan people should not become confused by events in the U.S. House of Representatives. Nothing good can come out of there for the future of the Sandinist people's revolution, because nobody is talking about peace or about ensuring the people's right to self-determination. Quite the contrary: We must be prepared for any outcome regardless of what policy the U.S. Congress may decide to carry out against Nicaragua. There is no room for confusion, for the following reasons:

1. The debate in the U.S. House of Representatives not only is unlawful and immoral, but all patriotic Nicaraguans must also reject it. Regardless of the outcome, the democratic view of all countries will not cease to be amazed by the immorality that it [the debate] represents; and they will not stop rejecting it as a violation of international norms.

This is a problem of principles ratified throughout hundreds of years of patriotic combat against the invader. Estrada, Zeledon, Sandino, and the FSLN have rescued the dignity which men like Diaz, Somoza, Calero, and others have sold for a few million or for $100 million.

2. Any outcome of the debates and vote represents one more act of war against the people. The debate per se is one more element deepening the aggression that we have resisted, combatted, and are defeating every day.

Ronald Reagan's statements and commitments; the degree of lies and threats that he and his most important hawks have uttered; the actions that have been carried out -- such as Philip Habib's -- to ensure the success of the [request for the] $100 million; the personal commitment to this matter; all these things cannot be viewed as anything but deepening and escalating the aggression. Hand in hand with the aggression, the specter of an invasion by U.S. troops has been stirred, raised and clearly described.

3. All these desperate efforts by the Reagan administration hide a true, unquestionable, and dramatic fact, even to its own interests: the defeat of the counterrevolution at the hands of the Nicaraguan people.

Nothing will keep our soldiers and fighters in every line from dealing decisive blows in 1986 and 1987. Despair is turning into greater defeat. Over 100 [counterrevolutionary] elements have perished in recent weeks while trying to stage a propaganda blow, like the one in La Trinidad -- permitting them to shout "we are still alive" to back up President Reagan.

4. In the face of this danger -- which is even further uniting the Nicaraguan people and making us become more prepared -- there is an element we must view as positive for our struggle: The imperialists played very important cards by taking off the masks hiding the faces of many traitors.

Reagan made Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo and Bishop Pablo Antonio Vega show their true faces. Their statements have been the imperialists' "proof" and "arguments" for the $100 million request to get rid of the people's Sandinist revolution.

We now know them well. Isolated, without moral authority, deprived of their habits, and wearing the uniform of the enemies of the people, they have shown themselves as what they truly are.

5. All this leads us to the conclusion that we must declare ourselves on the alert; paying attention to what is happening because nothing good will come out of there. These 6 years of preparations and mobilization have taught us how to act in the current situation, always prepared for the call of the fatherland.

Additional Editorial

PA220026 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Mar 86 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Differences on How To Attack Us"]

[Text] The immoral and illegal U.S. Congress debate has not ended. We can conclude that one of the warmongering and interventionist alternatives has been temporarily weakened by the House of Representatives' negative vote on the $100 million requested by Reagan to continue the mercenary war against the Nicaraguan people.

The close final vote proves that President Ronald Reagan imposed the ideological and political conditions of the debate, and the important follow-up vote now rises threateningly as happened a year ago during a similar vote.

We should recall that in 1985 President Ronald Reagan proposed to Congress the approval of $14 million for the mercenary forces. The representatives' vote, especially that of the democrats, rejected the initiative by a difference of 30 votes.

In the end, however, the same Congress, with the democrat's support, granted $27 million for so-called "humanitarian aid."

With this backing, President Reagan's aggressive policies were strengthened and during that year the war escalated dangerously with the introduction of surface-to-air missiles, with greater Honduran involvement in support of mercenaries, the militarization of the Costa Rican Rural Police -- Murcielaga Base -- and increased military maneuvers, among other efforts to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution.

The 1985 experience and yesterday's vote -- after an intense political struggle in the United States -- leads us to the following conclusions:

1. President Ronald Reagan managed to achieve a consensus in the U.S. Congress among Republicans as well as Democrats regarding military solutions for Central America, specifically against Nicaragua. This was not only proven by the immoral proposal of $100 million, but also in the variations that are still pending discussions, which are advocated by Democratic congressmen.

Next 14 April there will be a hearing to debate at least six democratic proposals, four of which support military solutions in lieu of negotiations for a political solution.

With the exception of the proposals made by Congressmen Hamilton and Levine, the proposals are dangerous traps for the revolution. They conceal an ultimatum and blackmail against the revolution in apparent interest in "negotiation."

Hamilton's proposal sensibly seeks to end support for the mercenaries and to support Contadora. Levine is more specific and suggests support of the Latin American effort through support for Contadora, meeting with the Latin American presidents, resumption of the bilateral talks with Managua, a 6-month moratorium on military exercises in Central America, encouraging bilateral solutions to border conflicts, and not providing sophisticated weapons to the neighbors of Nicaragua.

These were the most dignified positions discussed yesterday. Nevertheless, they do not represent the majority of the congressmen's opinions. On the contrary, there is still the threat of Reagan's militaristic position being renewed through negotiations with the Democrats in the coming weeks, preserving its most dangerous elements, that is, the concept of military aid and involvement by U.S. advisers in the war.

2. On 24 March a variation of Reagan's proposal will be debated in the Senate, and there are strong probabilities that it will be supported. This would pave the way for new pressures and drives to force a favorable vote that would allow Reagan to call a conference of both houses that could result in an alternative solution such as the $27 million in "humanitarian aid."

An agreement in this regard would make Reagan's declaration of war official, and would allow an escalation of the war. For the past 6 years the U.S. Administration has acted against the will of the American people, most of whom have rejected the military aid to the contras.

3. President Reagan's anticommunist speech deeply influenced the debates of the past few days, and the Democrats practically had to go against the current to prove that they are not "procommunists," or simply "antipatriots" by failing to support the $100 million proposal. In response to this we must point out the dignified position of Democratic leader O'Neill when he rejected President Reagan's (?masochistic) tactics.

Nevertheless, as Reagan himself confirmed yesterday after the debate, the blackmail and (?confusion) of militarily involving the United States with arms and advisers to save the mercenaries from a definite defeat will continue.

4. Let us hope that the Nicaraguan people's attitude will be more alert than ever. The provocative maneuvers on the northern border, the CIA plan in northern Zelaya, the deployment of U.S. warships to our coasts, the inconclusive debates at the U.S. Congress must give us the incentive to promote a permanent mobilization for defense and production to defeat the terrorism that threatens our country.

HONDURAN ARMY UNITS REPORTEDLY ON ALERT

PA230215 Managua International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Several Honduran Army combat units are on alert at the Nicaraguan border, a Honduran presidential spokesman has reported. In addition, the Honduran High Command has ordered the deployment of some battalions to specific locations near the borderline. Honduran residents at the border with Nicaragua have reported that hundreds of Somozist counterrevolutionaries continue to arrive in this territory to set up camp near several villages in El Paraiso Department.

CARRION LEADS DELEGATION TO KSC CONGRESS

PA221313 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Mar 86 p 1

[Text] The Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate informs the following:

Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion Cruz, member of the FSLN National Directorate and deputy minister of the interior, is heading the FSLN delegation that will attend the 17th Congress of the Czechoslovak Communist Party [KSC] to be held from 24 to 27 March.

The delegation will also include Lea Guido and Victor Hugo Tinoco, members of the Sandinist Assembly.

Secretariat of the FSLN National Directorate

Managua, 20 March 1986

25 years later, all weapons against aggression!

GUERRILLAS REPORTEDLY SET UP BASES NEAR BORDER

PA221240 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Tegucigalpa, Honduras -- Residents from the eastern Department of El Paraiso have reported that during the past few days Somozist mercenaries have set up new military bases only 8 and 15 km from the Nicaraguan border. They also said that the mercenaries operating from Honduran territory have created a state of anxiety among the 17,000 residents of the Arenales area who have had to abandon their homes for a safer place and that is why they are flocking to the city of Danli. The residents said that for the past 4 days Arenales has lived under prewar state.

ARDE, OTHER GROUPS JOIN TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVE

PA232347 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Mar 86 p 5

[By Benigno Quesada]

[Text] Ciudad Quesada -- Anti-Sandinist rebel groups have been joining those from Morgan Island and Tango post in order to launch a major offensive on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast and encircle the Sandinist forces fighting against them in the area. The groups are from Nicaraguan Opposition Unity [UNO-FAR] led by "Negro" [Fernando] Chamorro; ARDE by "Chaparro" and "Domingo;" and Brooklyn Rivera's Miskitos, Sumus, Ramas Sandinist Unity [Misurasata].

LA PRENSA LIBRE was told that even though there is no agreement among the rebels' upper echelons to fight together, they are determined to form a southern front in practice to rout the Sandinists from the Boca de Sarapiqui, La Penca, and Tango 2 posts with help from Commanders "Oscar," "Franklin," "Navagante," and "Lionel," who recently signed the "Campaign Agreement" ["Pacto de Campana"] with UNO-FAR.

The rebel groups are experiencing serious difficulties because they lack food, clothing, shoes, and some ammunition, but they are receiving help from several countries and from the peasants in the area where they are located. Proof of the fact that a major operation is in the offing is that many Nicaraguans have decided to move to Costa Rica as refugees. Statistics show that approximately 50 people are entering [Costa Rica] daily through Tambor and Tamborcito after being helped across the San Juan River by these groups. At the Alba Peral post alone there are currently over 1,000 refugees, and the Costa Rican Red Cross is trying to send most of them to other refugee camps in the country to ease the overcrowding. There are approximately 300 people at Boca Arenal, and 100 people arrived recently at the new post of Tamborcito, where immigration officials duly registered them.

REACTION TO U.S. HOUSE VOTE ON CONTRA AID

'Setback' for Reagan

FL211228 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] The setback experienced by President Ronald Reagan in his effort to support the mercenary forces that have been aiding the aggressive U.S. policy against Nicaragua is serious. Reagan has temporarily had his plans detained because the U.S. House of Representatives rejected his proposal to supply the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries with $100 million in aid. The House rejected the proposal despite the conciliatory maneuvers initiated at the last minute by the White House, which suspended for 90 days the renewal of military aid to the Somozist bands but still allowed for the supply of anti-aircraft missiles, logistics assistance, and training.

Responsible media representatives lashed out at the tactics used by Reagan administration officials during the debate, which had questioned the patriotism of those opposing Reagan's proposal. Those tactics were compared to the tactics prevailing during the McCarthy era and the so-called cold war.

After learning of the defeat in the House, President Reagan said nothing more than that session was a dark day for liberty. He confirmed that he will try and revoke the decision and added that he expects to win in the Senate, which begins debate on Reagan's proposal on Tuesday. Nicaragua responded to Reagan's aggressive declarations by calling for reflection and prudent action to give peace another opportunity. The Managua government also made clear that the struggle for peace is equally able to confront the mercenary forces or U.S. advisers and troops if the U.S. President should send them to Nicaragua.

It can be determined from this panorama that besides the setback experienced by the Reagan administration in Congress, the true defeat will occur with the Nicaraguan people, Latin America, and world public opinion, which opposes Washington's intention to continue criminally aggravating Nicaragua.

Tunnerman Comments

PA221632 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Report by Abraham Quijano, Managua Radio Sandino reporter]

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government's first reaction to the U.S. House of Representatives vote against President Reagan's request for $100 million in aid for the counterrevolution was made by Carlos Tunnerman, Nicaraguan ambassador to the United States. The U.S. House of Representatives today dealt President Reagan a blow, Ambassador Tunnerman said. In statements to Radio Sandino, Ambassador Tunnerman said that the U.S. press, radio, and television are reporting that the House of Representatives today voted against President Reagan's request for $100 million in aid to the counterrevolutionaries.

Despite this rejection, victory cannot be claimed because there are other phases that must be completed and these could lead to the approval of the military aid to the mercenaries so that they may continue their war against Nicaragua, the ambassador said. Tunnerman stressed that even though Nicaragua and Latin America obtained a victory today because we want negotiations, the Nicaraguan people must continue to be vigilant and to be prepared to defend the country because of the White House's irrational policy to destroy the Sandinist people's revolution.

GRANMA Analysis

PA221627 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[From the "What the Press Has To Say" feature read by Maruja Garcia and Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] Under the title: "A Little Salt and Pepper in the Yankee's Soup," Cuban newspaper GRANMA analyzes the situation prevailing in various U.S. sectors prior to the House of Representative's decision to disapprove Ronald Reagan's plan to give the former Somozist guards $100 million.

The newspaper states that events in the United States prior to Congress' discussion of the military aid requested by the President are unmistakable proof of a repression never before seen, at least in so many places and at the same time.

Rolando Moneses, who signed the commentary, recalled that in Minnesota, for example, at least 90 persons opposed to the funding of the mercenaries were arrested. More than three dozen people were fined for refusing to leave the offices of Senators Rudy Boschwitz and David Durenberger where they sought the withdrawal of U.S. aid to the contras attacking Nicaragua. The article states that Mary Lahr Senator Boschwitz' spokesperson, said that dozens of demonstrators who entered the office were peaceful and only read statements and sang.

The GRANMA article, which discusses the situation in the United States prior to the congressional vote on the $100 million for the contras, adds that in other parts of that country there were massive demonstrations against Reagan's project.

In Albany, New York State, GRANMA states, nine people were jailed and accused of disorderly conduct when they protested against support of the Somozist gangs. While this was going on, said Rolando Meneses, Robert Dole, the leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, said at the top of his voice that the anti-Nicaraguan proposal would win the vote.

Nevertheless, GRANMA explains, Senator Robert Lotz, in charge of counting the Republican votes, said that the future of the President's proposal to obtain $100 million in aid for the contras is uncertain.

Another Republican, Thomas Foley, who apparently was following the count quite closely, did not stop saying euphorically: We will win the vote.

In the article referring to the atmosphere in the United States prior to the negative vote in the House of Representatives, GRANMA states that one ingredient that hindered the count and the predictions was the statement made to the press by Thomas O'Neill president [as received] of the House of Representatives. O'Neill said that the $100 million was only the beginning because Reagan would certainly need more money in coming years. These words, the Cuban newspaper article says, put the salt on a soup of statements, imprisonment, fines, and counts. The pepper was provided by David (McMitchell), former analyst for the CIA who, upon returning from a 1-month stay in Nicaragua, said: The contras have been reduced to nothing and they are constantly pursued.

The truth, GRANMA concludes, was written a long time ago and the near-sighted White House residents could not see it. With $100 million, and all the millions sent later to fill the hands of the criminals with weapons, the Sandinist revolution will trample every attack against the Nicaraguan people. This has been demonstrated since 19 July 1979, when the satrap was ousted. It is not only a matter of a revolution that defends a people, it is a people in revolution.

Ortega: Vote Does Not End War

PA220309 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Report from Managua by correspondent Estrella Diaz, no date given -- recorded]

[Text] The national press has reacted strongly to the press conference broadcast last night by the Sistema Sandanista Television Network in which Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra presented his country's official position on the vote at the U.S. House of Representatives, in which approval of the $100 million for the counterrevolutionary groups was denied by a narrow margin of 12 votes.

At the press conference Commander Ortega pointed out that for Nicaragua it is not important if the U.S. Congress votes for or against the $100 million Reagan has requested. What we reject, he said, is the debate itself, which shows a lack of respect for the entire world. In this regard, the president also stressed that the congressional debates are illegal and immoral and they go against international public opinion. The fact that they voted agianst the proposal, Commander Ortega said, does not mean that war has ended. On the contrary, the aggression continues and in Honduras even the maneuvers scheduled for April have been moved up to coincide with the deployment of 5,000 Honduran troops toward Nicaraguan territory.

The Nicaraguan president warned that the fact that Reagan is talking about using military advisers is the beginning of the conflict's Vietnamization, and he stressed that the American President is seeking a way to continue advancing in order to conclude his criminal project and invade Nicaragua, which would result in considerable bloodshed.

Attempt To 'Vietnamize' Area

PA240153 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega has cautioned that Ronald Reagan is trying to Vietnamize Central America and that this will represent greater difficulties for the countries of the region and also for the U.S. people. Speaking to members of the Sandinist Defense Committees, Ortega stated that the counterrevolutionaries are defeated and have no future because they lack the support of the people. He also said that if Washington sends military advisers to the mercenaries, they will die in Nicaragua. He reiterated that his country will resist to the last consequences any eventual direct attack by the United States.

Ronald Reagan, meanwhile, has complained about the way he has been treated by those opposed to his meddling in Nicaragua and emphasized that in spite of his defeat in the House of Representatives, he will insist on obtaining $100 million in aid for Nicaraguan-born counterrevolutionaries.

Reagan To 'Pressure' Senate

PA232355 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has begun an intense campaign to pressure the U.S. Senate to approve $100 million in aid for the Nicaraguan counterrevolution.

This aid was rejected yesterday by the U.S. House of Representatives. After describing the House's vote against the aid as a black day for freedom, President Reagan said that he will struggle for the Senate to approve the requested aid. The negative vote in the House of Representatives has been described as a personal defeat for Ronald Reagan. He was the one that headed, developed, and promoted the campaign in favor of the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. If the U.S. Senate approves the President's request, the House of Representatives will then have to vote on the alternatives presented in this regard on 15 April.

U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S VISIT TO NICARAGUA REPORTED

PA230235 Managua International Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Mar 86

[Text] Without the slightest shame, four U.S. congressmen who voted for [as heard] the Nicaraguan people's death and destruction, arrived in Managua Friday. Accosted by local and foreign journalists, the visitors brazenly insisted that Nicaragua constitutes a danger for the United States, but did not specify the type of threat they had in mind. Once again, these U.S. congressmen reasserted President Ronald Reagan's warmongering policy which he executes irresponsibly against the Nicaraguan people. The U.S. delegation is formed by Senators [as heard] G.V. Montgomery, Kenneth J. Gray, Sander Levin and George W. Darden.

Ramirez on Meeting Delegation

PA230107 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Live telephone report from Managua by Estrella Diaz, special Radio Havana correspondent]

[Text] The defeat that President Reagan has suffered in the House of Representatives has not made him stop his aggressive efforts, Rather, he is preparing to introduce destabilization factors and terrorism in Nicaragua through an illegal, unlawful, unfair, and immoral support to the counterrevolutionary forces. This statement was made today, Saturday, by Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez during a brief news conference he held shortly after meeting with four Democratic congressmen who have been visiting Managua since yesterday. This delegation has carried out an extensive program that has included talks with the political parties opposed to the FSLN and with high-ranking leaders of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise.

In his statements to the local press as well as to the foreign press accredited to Managua, Vice President Ramirez stressed that Nicaragua will continue to receive delegations of U.S. politicians, regardless of the position they assume in the U.S. Congress with regard to approving or not approving the proposal of military aid for the contras. Ramirez noted that proof of this is that two of the congressmen who compose the delegation -- those of the states of Mississippi and Georgia -- advocate granting to the mercenary bands the $100 million proposed by President Reagan. Answering a question as to whether this visit could be described as an ultimatum to the revolution, he answered:

[Begin recording] I do not think this involves an ultimatum because, at any rate, we do not accept ultimatums from anybody. We are engaged in a war here. We are fighting this war. More than anything, this war is being waged in military terms. And it is in military terms that we are defeating the counterrevolution in every sphere [campos]. This war also has political connotations. It also involves international political factors, even in the United States, because this war is being directed by President Reagan himself, who is the head of the counterrevolution. I did not say he is the chief of the contras. He did.

So, if the head of the contras is in the White House, this means that we are waging a war that involves the White House. That is why U.S. congressmen come here because, in addition, President Reagan burdens them with the serious problem of having to decide about the military aid for the counterrevolution, of which he is the supreme commander. Therefore, this is also a political problem and not only a military problem. [end recording]

For this part, the four U.S. congressmen refused to answer questions from the press but did state that tough topics had been discussed. Sunday, before leaving for the United States, the Democratic congressmen announced that they will hold a news conference at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport. That is all for the time being, dear listeners.

CONTADORA GROUP AT OAS URGES STOP TO CONTRA AID

PA221724 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Speaking before the OAS Political Council, the countries that form the Contadora and Support Groups have asked the U.S. to stop supporting the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. On behalf of the eight Latin American countries that comprise the two groups, Venezuelan Ambassador Edilberto Moreno said that it is necessary to reiterate the duty of each state to resolve its differences by peaceful means and refrain from using direct or indirect force.

H. ORTEGA INTERVIEW WITH MEXICAN PAPER NOTED

PA221402 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Mar 86

[Text] Nicaragua has reaffirmed its right to arm itself to face any U.S. attack and has called on Honduras to sign a border agreement similar to the one signed with Costa Rica. During an interview with the Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR, Nicaraguan Defense Minister Humberto Ortega said that no Central America country is threatening Nicaragua, and that only the United States constitutes a problem for that Central American country. Ortega added that Nicaragua is entitled to arm itself in view of this situation. He warned that the U.S. CIA will try to boycott the work by the border commission established by Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

U.S. PLAN TO MOVE MISKISTOS TO NICARAGUA ALLEGED

PA222341 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Sandinist authorities have disclosed that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is planning to send approximately 1,000 Miskito Indians from Honduras to Nicaragua to establish a provisional government on Nicaragua's Atlantic coast and scuttle the current process to grant autonomy to that region.

Subcommanders Jose Gonzalez and Salvador Perez explained that the CIA plan is being implemented in coordination with the "Cabanas 86" maneuvers which the United States is conducting on Honduran territory. These military exercises, which are being carried out by Yankee troops, provide the logistical cover to move the Miskito Indians, who have been manipulated for a long time into opposing the Sandinist revolution. During the last few weeks; the counterrevolutionary station Miskus, which broadcasts from Honduras, has been calling on the Miskito Indians at Rio Coco to move to their territory and has also been announcing that the invasion of Nicaragua will begin in April.

SPOKESMAN ON CARABALLEDA DOCUMENT, U.S. TIES

PA211340 Paris AFP in Spanish 0907 GMT 20 Mar 86

[Text] Havana, 19 Mar (AFP) -- Cuba's official silence on the Caraballeda message "should not have been taken to mean that there are doubts or reservations about the document," a government spokesman said this afternoon. Without naming Ecuadoran President Leon Febres Cordero, the spokesman said that "anybody backing" the current U.S. policies toward Nicaragua "is making a serious mistake, betting on a horse that will lose in the end." He labelled U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as "at the least, very indiscreet." Shultz told the Congress that although Latin American leaders publicly criticize Washington's anti-Sandinist policies, they privately support them.

The Cuban Government source stressed that Shultz "could not give the Congress a single example" of that statement. "He offended governments which are not enemies of the United States with a generalized and unsubstantiated charge," he said. Quite the contrary, "Latin America is not going to stand by idly in the face of a direct U.S. attack" against the Sandinist government," the spokesman said during a meeting with foreign newsmen summoned regarding recent statements by Peruvian President Alan Garcia. [quotation marks as received]

"The aid to the contas is one of many ways of wasting the U.S. taxpayers' money and resources. The dollars will turn them from inefficient bandits to inefficient guerrillas," he said. "Central America's key problem is Reagan's war policies toward Sandinism. If he does not forsake that obsession, he will have no other recourse but to send U.S. troops," the spokesman remarked.

As a result of this obsession, President Reagan commits "high-level blunders" such as having stated that Sandinism trains Brazilian guerrillas, an assertion that led Brasilia to ask for explanations, he said.

The Cuban spokesman reiterated his government's support for the Contadora Group, reiterated his government's support for the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and the Caraballeda declaration, and he insisted on a negotiated solution for the Central American issue. "It would be improper for each country to issue a statement commenting on each phrase of each document and each declaration," he said. Cuba is in "close understanding" with Mexico, Argentina, Peru, and Uruguay, which are members of those groups, and with whom it has diplomatic relations and "quite a flowing dialogue."

The spokesman evaluated the current relations between the United States and Cuba as being "at their lowest point." Through the reciprocal diplomatic offices in Washington and Havana, he ironically stated, "we have contacts that are limited to consular affairs or the exchange of disagreements about some points."

SPAIN REFUSES EXTRADITION REQUEST FOR SANCHEZ

FL221150 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 22 Mar 86

[Text] Spain has turned down a request from Cuba to extradite former Cuban Economy Vice Minister Manuel Antonio Sanchez Perez. Cuba has charged Mr Sanchez with trying to embezzle $500,000 of public money. Mr Sanchez, meanwhile, says he earned the money in commissions on bonus deals in Europe. The former Cuban official gained worldwide attention in December when four Cuban Embassy officials tried to kidnap him at gunpoint in downtown Madrid, Mr Sanchez asked Spain for asylum in November. Earlier this week, the Interior Ministry recommended against granting him political asylum. A final decision on his fate is now up to the Spanish Cabinet.

HAITI

ARMED FORCES REORGANIZE GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

PA212010 Paris AFP in Spanish 1943 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 21 Mar (AFP) — The Haitian Armed Forces today reorganized the National Government Council (CNG) after four of its members resigned, General Henri Namphy, president of the council, announced in Port-au-Prince. The Council, created on 7 February after President-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier left power, is now composed of Gen Namphy (president), Colonel Williams Regala (interior and defense minister), and Jacques Francois, current foreign minister.

The members who left the CNG are: Gerard Gourgue (who resigned yesterday from the CNG and the Justice Ministry), Colonels Prosper Avril, and Max Valles (minister of information and public relations), and Alex Cineas, minister without portfolio. Col Max Valles retains his duties as information minister. However, it was not confirmed whether Cineas will remain at the head of his ministry.

Today Gen Namphy criticized the attitude "of ill-intentioned individuals who are cleverly deceitful and want to rob the people of the fruit of their victory" by maintaining in the country "a climate of violence, upheaval, and disruption, the disastrous possibilities of which are clearly visible."

Meanwhile, in Port-au-Prince antigovernment demonstrations as well as a general transportation strike, which began last Wednesday, continue.

GOURGUE EXPLAINS REASONS FOR RESIGNATION

PA212014 Paris AFP in Spanish 1948 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Santo Domingo, 21 Mar (AFP) -- Gerard Gourgue, the only non-Duvalierist member of the Council of Government that replaced dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier in Haiti, resigned yesterday because "the expectations and demands of the people have not been met."

Gourgue, who was also the justice minister, spoke to the evening newspaper ULTIMA HORA of Santo Domingo in a telephone interview this morning. Regarding his immediate political future, he said that he will "wait for events to happen," implying that his estrangement from political activity might not be definitive. He noted that he will continue to be the president of the Human Rights League of Haiti through which position in 1979, he became one of the persistent critics of Duvalier's lifetime regime.

Regarding the general situation in Haiti, Gourgue said that it is "not too bad but not too good" and that one must anticipate "the decisions that may be made by the authorities" and the attitude of the people, who hope for the implementation of a democratic regime that will leave behind the 28 years of dynastic power exercised by the Duvaliers.

According to the newspaper, Gourgue implied that in the next few days there may be new changes in the Haitian transition government.

FORMER PRESIDENT FIGNOLE RETURNS FROM EXILE

PA211546 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0213 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Mar (DPA) -- A crowd of hundreds of thousands of Haitians gave a warm reception to former Haitian President Daniel Fignole, who returned to Port-au-Prince today after 28 years in exile in New York.

Fignole, known as "the professor," was one of the most popular leaders of the Caribbean island of Haiti. The masses followed him without question. A provisional president for 18 days in 1957, he went into exile after being overthrown by a military coup.

The people took to the streets and cheerfully shouted "professor, professor" as the government limousine in which the politician was riding went from the airport to downtown Port-au-Prince.

Political observers in Haiti say that the return of the septuagenarian politician stirred up a new feeling of hope among the people, who are increasingly disappointed with the junta which, following Gerard Gourgue's resignation today, is made up exclusively of former close collaborators of "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

STUDENTS, BUS DRIVERS PROTEST DEATHS OF 5 PEOPLE

FL211500 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 21 Mar 86

[Text] In Haiti, thousands of students demonstrated outside the national palace, at a university in Port-au-Prince, and at the Ministry of Education yesterday to protest the killing of five people by soldiers.

Bus drivers in a suburb went on strike and burned tires to protest the shooting which took place Wednesday as soldiers fired on the crowd of people who attempted to prevent the arrest of a bus driver.